

OPINION 6
THE JOURNEY FROM
OLIVE GREEN TO KHADI

WORLD 8
BLAST IN RED SEA SLIGHTLY
DAMAGES IRANIAN SHIP

SPORT 12
ZAMAN SCRIPTS SERIES
WIN FOR PAKISTAN

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Shots at workplaces from April 11

Public, pvt offices with 100 'eligible' people can get Covid jabs



A man gets vaccinated against Covid-19 vaccine at a Government hospital in Noida on Wednesday

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
To speed up the vaccination drive across the country, the Centre on Wednesday allowed Covid-19 vaccination at public and private workplaces having about 100 eligible beneficiaries from April 11.

Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan in a letter to the chief secretaries said a substantial proportion of the population aged 45 years and above is in the organised sector of the

However, the Government's decision to allow vaccination to only 45 years of age and above has not gone down well with the health experts who said that co-morbidity, and not age should be the criteria for vaccination. Trying to bring home their point, the doctors pointed out that a large number of the below-45 population suffer from various comorbidity conditions and are more vulnerable to the infections than those who are at or above 45.

Dr Rahul Bhargava, Director, Department of Clinical Hematology and Bone Marrow Transplant, Fortis Hospital in Gurugram, said that "I believe after covering 60 plus people, the Government should have made comorbidity conditions irrespective of any age as the only criteria to receive a vaccine."

He argued that there are many youth below 45 suffering from serious ailments like pulmonary diseases such as tuberculosis, asthma, etc. Depriving them the benefits of shots indicate ignorance on the part of the Government. Why to spare precious resources on a non-

needy person, he asked. Dr Rajendra Prasad, Spine and Neurosurgeon at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital in Sarita Vihar in Delhi, echoed similar views saying, "I am disappointed that at this point the Government has not opened up vaccination for all those above 18 years of age, especially in the wake of the rapid second wave."

"However, I do understand

that because of the shortage of vaccines and the large population that needs to be vaccinated there will be delay. But I strongly feel that the Government should spend on production of vaccines rather than spending huge amounts on elections where there is total disregard for social distancing and I am sure we will see a bad effect of this shortly," said Dr Prasad.

Wearing mask compulsory even while driving alone during pandemic, says HC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Wearing a mask while driving alone in a private vehicle is compulsory as it is a public place in the context of Covid-19, the Delhi High Court held on Wednesday and described face covering as a 'suraksha kavach' or protective shield against the spread of the infection.

Justice Prathiba M Singh refused to interfere with the Delhi Government's decision to impose challoans for not wearing a mask while driving a private car alone, saying a vehicle even if occupied by one person would constitute a public place. "There are several possibilities in which while sitting alone in the car one could be exposed to the outside world.

Thus, it cannot be said that merely because the person is travelling alone in a car, the car would not be a public place.

"Wearing of a mask therein would be compulsory in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic," the court said. Masks are necessary irrespective of whether a person is vaccinated or not, it added.

Justice Singh's ruling came while dismissing four petitions by lawyers who challenged the imposition of 'challoans' for not wearing a mask while driving alone in a private vehicle. "The wearing of a mask is like a 'suraksha kavach' against Covid-19," the court said, noting a mask protects the person wearing it and also those exposed to him or her.

Continued on Page 2

Whopping 1.26L cases in 24 hours

Lockdown imposed on Raipur from Apr 9 to April 19; night curfew in Punjab

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The deadly coronavirus shows no sign of slowing down as the country recorded a new single-day rise in the number of fresh cases on Wednesday and several States entered into the alarming territory from where they could see a sharp upsurge in new infections. India saw a record 1,26,198 new cases and 684 fatalities in 24 hours till late on Wednesday, almost 10,000 more than the previous day's count.

Meanwhile, the cumulative number of vaccine doses administered in the country have crossed 8.83 crore.

Maharashtra logged yet another new record, reporting 59,900 cases and 322 deaths. The State saw 30,296 recoveries during the last 24 hours. Maharashtra was followed by Chattisgarh, recording 10,310 new cases and 53 deaths.

Uttar Pradesh, which did very well in tackling the first

wave of corona, reported 6,023 new Covid cases, 1,484 discharges and 40 deaths on Wednesday. Karnataka reported 6,000-plus cases followed by Delhi which recorded nearly 5,500 new cases.

Gujarat reported 3,575 new cases, 2,217 recoveries and 22 deaths in the last 24 hours, Madhya Pradesh reports 4,043 new cases, 2,126 recoveries, and 13 deaths in the last 24 hours.

Jharkhand recorded 1,302 new cases and 7 deaths in the last 24 hours.

Meanwhile, in view of the recent surge in Covid-19 cases, the Chhattisgarh Government on Wednesday announced a lockdown in Raipur district with effect from April 9 to April 19, an official said.

Raipur Collector S

Bharathi Dasan has issued the order declaring the entire area of the district, including the State capital, as a containment zone and restricted several activities from 6 pm on April 9 till 6 am on April 19.

Because of the steady rise in Covid-19 cases, it has become necessary to impose stricter restrictions on the movement of people and other activities to contain the spread of infection, the collector said in a press conference.

Accordingly, during the lockdown period, the border of the district will be completely sealed and all shops, including those selling liquor, and commercial establishments will remain closed except medical stores.

Continued on Page 2

Businesses help raise rate of inoculation with freebies

Gold nose pin, hand blenders, foods on offer

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI



Fearing another lockdown, small and medium entrepreneurs are offering freebies, incentives which include gold nose pin, hand blenders, free beer, foods, and tax rebate to encourage people to get vaccinated amid the second surge of the coronavirus pandemic across India. They hope that their offers and discounts will encourage other businesses to ramp up freebies as well to boost the rate at which people are being vaccinated in India.

Interestingly, the USA and European Unions are also offering free merchandise and other stuff to those who receive Covid vaccinations or encourage vaccinations. The perks include free rides, doughnuts, money, arcade tokens and even marijuana.

According to report, corporate such as Capgemini, Infosys, Accenture, Volvo, Reliance, IndiGo and upGrad

free food to those who get vaccinated. In Mehsana, a car workshop is forgoing labour charges on car servicing and offering a 10 per cent discount on car accessories to vaccinated individuals. All you have to do is show your vaccination certificate.

A stationery shop in Vadodra is offering customers a 5 per cent to 10 per cent discount to help boost the rate of vaccination in the city. All they have to do is show up with their vaccination certificate.

As per the data, Gujarat is now left with 17,348 active cases. Of the 17 fatalities, seven patients each died in Ahmedabad and Surat, while two succumbed to the infection in Rajkot and one died in Vadodra district. With 2,167 people recovering in the last 24 hours, the count of recoveries in Gujarat went up to 3,02,932 on Tuesday.

The snack producer in Maharashtra has joined hands with the Mahatma Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) to dole out free bhakarwadi to those who can prove they have gotten vaccinated.

Continued on Page 2

Gherao CRPF on poll day, Didi tells cadre

Alleges Central forces stopping TMC voters; BJP moves EC over her remark

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ SINGUR/KOLKATA

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has asked supporters to gherao CRPF on poll day and vote for the TMC. The BJP has gone to the Election Commission asking it to censure her.

"I have respect for the Central forces but not the one being guided by the BJP... they are stopping our voters from casting their votes... if this continues I will ask our supporters to unite against the Central forces... gherao them if they do not listen to you... The women should gherao them and the rest of the people go and cast your votes," the Chief Minister said at a rally in Coochbehar.



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee addresses an election campaign rally in Kolkata on Wednesday

Alleging that the BJP had conspired to pull down the Trinamool Government by using the Central forces, Mamata said, "The CRPF is asking the voters to vote for the BJP... they are also stopping the TMC supporters from voting... I will ask you to unite and gherao them wherever you find them."

Reminding that she was the same "Bengal tigress" who had not learnt to bend, Banerjee said, "They are using all tactic to win the elections... they are bringing goons from neighbouring States like Assam, they are splurging money... but they cannot do anything to me with their money and goons because I am Bengal tigress... I can break but I do not bend."

Claiming that if the BJP came to power in Bengal all hell would break loose. She said, "The BJP will do the same thing in Bengal like what they have done in Assam. There they have detained 14 lakh Bengalis in detention camps they will detain people here also... so it is the question of your existence... you will have

to save Bengal and yourself if you do not want to see Bengal being run by Gujaratis," Mamata said, adding "we will not let Gujaratis capture Bengal. Bengal will stay in Bengal, we will not let goons from Gujarat take over Bengal."

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

ALLEGATIONS OF VACCINE SHORTAGE BASELESS: MIN
New Delhi/Mumbai: Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan lashed out at Maharashtra and some other States, accusing them of trying to cover their "failures" in containing the pandemic by making "deplorable" attempts through "irresponsible" statements to distract attention and spreading panic among people. In a strongly-worded statement, the Minister rubbished Maharashtra Government's claim of shortage of vaccines as "utterly baseless".

EC notice to Mamata for communal appeal during election rally

New Delhi: The Election Commission issued a notice to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday for her alleged appeal to Muslim voters while campaigning in Hooghly to not allow their votes get split among different parties.

RBI leaves policy rate intact at 4%, retains 10.5% growth forecast

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank on Wednesday projected that retail inflation will be well within control at 4.4-5.2 per cent in the current fiscal and that bumper food grains production will soften cereal prices even though there are some underlying constituents' testing the upper tolerance level.

The RBI also retained the economic growth projection for the current financial year at 10.5 per cent, while cautioning that the recent surge in Covid-19 infections has created uncertainty over the economic growth recovery. In its last policy review, the RBI had projected a GDP growth rate of 10.5 per cent for FY 2021-22.

Unveiling its first monetary policy review of 2021-22, the RBI left the repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent, keeping in mind the necessity to sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the Covid impact on economy.

The apex bank has projected the Consumer Price Index (CPI) based retail inflation at 5.2 per cent for the first and second quarters of this fiscal and then decline to 4.4 per cent in the third quarter. For the fourth quarter — January-March 2022 period — the apex bank has estimated retail inflation to be 5.1 per cent.

Continued on Page 2

Don't be scared of exams, they are small goals of big life: PM

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday exhorted students not to be scared of examinations and said social and family environment at times create undesirable pressure on students.

Interacting with students virtually in his annual 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme, he said they sometime become over-conscious regarding exams and asked them to take them as a small destination in their long lives.

If external pressure is not created, then students will not feel pressure of exams and their confidence will also grow, he said. While acknowledging that one cannot be good in everything, Modi asked students not to run away from any difficult subject, and cited his example of taking up more complex work in morning when he feels fresh and leaving easier parts to late night.

Continued on Page 2

Now, Vaze drops 'extortion' bomb on ex-HM, Sena Min

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a sensational allegation which the CBI will probe in its ongoing Preliminary Enquiry (PE) against Maharashtra's former Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, suspended Mumbai Police Assistant Inspector Sachin Vaze on Wednesday made a written submission before the special NIA Court accusing Deshmukh and another Maharashtra Minister Anil Parab of asking him to indulge in extortion for them.

On a day when the NIA recorded the statements of Param Bir Singh and encounter specialist Pradeep Sharma in the Antilia SUV recovery case, Vaze — a key accused in the explosive case — shot off a four-page hand-written letter to the Special Judge of the NIA court in which he made allegations of extortion against former Home Minister Deshmukh of the NCP and Transport Minister Anil Parab



Former Commissioner of Mumbai Police Param Bir Singh leaves NIA office, at Pedder Road in Mumbai

of the Shiv Sena.

The NIA court extended the custody of Vaze till April 9 to facilitate his further interrogation in the twin SUV planting and Manshukh Hiran alleged murder case. During the course of hearing, the prosecution told the special court that NIA was trying to ascertain the source of ₹36 lakh allegedly found in Vaze's bank account and whether it was used to procure gelatine used in the SUV planting case.

Two other accused — Vinayak Shinde, a convicted police constable (sentenced to life but currently on parole) and Naresh Gor, a cricket bookie — were sent to judicial custody.

In a significant development, the CBI moved an application before the NIA seeking permission to question Vaze, which was allowed by the court. On its part, the CBI is expected to record the statement of Singh, who had alleged that State Home Minister Deshmukh had asked arrested Vaze to "collect" a staggering ₹100 crore per month from bars, restaurants and other sources.

In the first of two serious allegations against Deshmukh in his letter dated April 3, 2021 submitted to the NIA court, Vaze claimed that the former Home Minister had asked him to pay ₹2 crore on the basis of an assurance he would convince Sharad Pawar to take Vaze into the force.

Continued on Page 2

Maoists post photo of captive Cobra jawan, ask for interlocutors

ANKIT MISHRA ■ RAIPUR

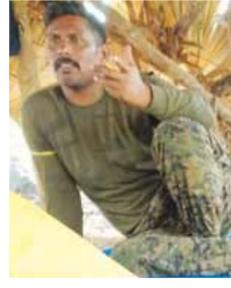
Naxalites have released a photograph of CRPF Cobra commando Rakeshwar Singh Manhas, who was captured by Maoists after a fierce gun battle in Bastar region in Chhattisgarh on April 3 which left 22 security personnel dead.

Manhas was part of a squad that had gone for an anti-Naxal operation in the jungles on the Bijapur and Sukma border on the night of April 2, hours before the ambush.

The photo shows the commando, still in his battle fatigues, squatting on the ground inside an apparent hut, with no Naxalite seen in the frame.

The photograph, being circulated on social media, is of Manhas, who was attached to the 210th CoBRA Battalion of the CRPF.

"We are closely monitoring the situation. All best possible efforts are being made to secure the safe return of the jawan,"



Inspector General of Police (Bastar) Sundarraj P said.

On Tuesday, the outlawed CPI(Maoist) issued a statement in Hindi saying its cadres abducted Manhas from the site of the ambush and asked the Chhattisgarh Government to appoint interlocutors to ensure his safe release.

The Government has not reacted to the demand. Police said the authenticity of the Maoist statement is being verified.

Continued on Page 2

Maha cases zoom to 59,507, cases cross 5 lakh, State logs 322 deaths

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

The Covid-19 crisis worsened further in Maharashtra on Wednesday, as the state logged an all-time of 59,507 infections taking the total number of “active cases” to 5,01,559, while a staggering 322 more people succumbed to the pandemic in the state.

After a drop in the number of cases in the past two days, the Covid-19 situation deteriorated further, as the infections touched 59,507 mark, while the death increased substantially in the state.

On April 4, the state had recorded 57,076 infections. However, the cases had dropped to 47,288 on Monday, while the state had recorded 55,469 new cases on Tuesday. Similarly, the state witnessed 222 Covid 19 induced deaths on Sunday, followed by 155

deaths on Monday and 297 fatalities on Tuesday.

With 59,507 fresh infections, the total infections climbed from 3113354 to 3173261. Similarly, with 322 new deaths, the total Covid-19 toll rose from 56330 to 56652.

Of the total deaths reported on Wednesday, Nanded accounted for 43 deaths, 41 in Nagpur, 24 in Mumbai, 23 in Thane, 21 in Jalna, 20 each in Palghar and Solapur, 19 in Nandurbar, 14 in Nashik, 12 in Pune, 11 in Beed, and 10 in Parbhani - in the higher range.

In the lower range, there were nine deaths in Jalgaon, followed by 7 in Osmanabad, 6 in Yavatmal, 5 in Bhandara, 4 each in Raigad, Sangli, Sindhudurg and Aurangabad, 3 each in Ahmednagar, Buldhana and Gadchiroli, 2 each in Dhule, Akola, Washim, Bhandara and Gondia, 1

each in Kolhapur and Latur.

As 30,296 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year went up to 26,13,627. The recovery rate in the state dropped from 82.9 per cent to 82.36 per cent.

Meanwhile, the number of “active cases” total cases in the state increased from 4,72,283 to 5,01,559. The fatality rate in the state dropped from 1.81 per cent to 1.79 per cent.

There are a maximum of 90,048 “active” cases in Pune, followed by Mumbai (83,185), Thane (65,431), Nagpur (59,595), Nashik (33,575), Aurangabad (18,621), Ahmednagar (18,609), Nanded (11,309), Jalgaon (8,061), Amaravati (3,673) and Akola (3,372).

Centre writes to Maha, Punjab, Delhi flagging below-par vaccination of beneficiaries

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre wrote to Maharashtra, Punjab and Delhi Governments on Wednesday flagging below-par vaccination of eligible beneficiaries, including health-care workers.

In a letter to the principal secretaries of Punjab, Delhi and Maharashtra, Additional Health Secretary Manohar Agnani noted that the performance of these states and UT have been below the national average and needs improvement. They were urged to undertake necessary corrective actions immediately towards improving the performance of COVID-19 vaccination drive in their states and union territory.

“I look forward to your unstinted support to the ongoing COVID-19 vaccination drive which is critical to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic,” he said.

Aganani’s letter comes after a strongly worded statement issued by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan in which he hit out at Maharashtra and some other states, accusing them of trying to cover their “failures” and spreading panic among people by demanding vaccination of all without inoculating enough of eligible beneficiaries.

Terms of admission prospectus binding on parties: HC on pleas relating to AIIMS M.Sc, Ph.D courses

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The terms and conditions of prospectus for admission bind the parties and are to be abided by, the Delhi High Court has said while holding that the students who have not cleared the qualifying examination within stipulated date cannot be given admission in M.Sc and Ph.D courses of AIIMS for the academic year 2020-21.

The high court dismissed several pleas of those who have sought admission in M.Sc and Ph.D courses of AIIMS but had not cleared the qualifying examination (graduation and post-graduation) conducted by respective universities.

The case of the students was that they appeared in the entrance examinations and after declaration of result they found themselves in the merit list at a

position which would have entitled them to admission. However, they could not secure admission owing to having not cleared the qualifying examination by the stipulated date.

The students had sought extension of the date for qualifying examination in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

However, a bench of Justices Rajiv Sahai Endlaw and Amit Bansal said “There is no reason why the appellants (students) alone should be given the benefit of COVID-19 and why it should not be extended to all others also who may be entitled thereto.

“There has to be a finality to admissions. The appellants participated in the admission process in terms of the prospectus published for such admissions. As per the terms and con-

ditions of such admission process, the appellants are not eligible for admission,” the bench said, in its verdict passed on March 25 and released on April 5. It added that as per the terms and conditions, others, though placed lower in merit in the result of the entrance examination, are eligible for and entitled to admission and they cannot be displaced to admit appellants.

“The court cannot displace those who have already been admitted or whose admissions have been crystallized, to admit the appellants... There is no merit in the appeals. Dismissed,” it said.

The high court was hearing several appeals of medical students challenging a single judge’s order which had also dismissed their pleas as they had not cleared the qualifying examination.

Revelation in Maha Vaze Gate: Suspended cop Vaze reported directly to ex-CP Param Bir: Official report

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI:

In a significant revelation in the fast-unfolding Vaze Gate drama, Mumbai Police Commissioner Hemant Nagrale has told to the Maharashtra Home Department that suspended police officer Sachin Vaze was directly reporting to his predecessor Param Bir Singh from the time he was reinstated into the police force on June 10 last year and till he was suspended on March 13.

In a report submitted to the State Home department, Nagrale also stated that Vaze was posted as the in-charge of the Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU) of the Mumbai police as per the orders of former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh.

“API Sachin Vaze never reported to any officer of the Crime Branch during his tenure of nine months from 10/06/2020 to

12/03/2020. No officers of the Crime branch gave any review/opinion/direction in the investigation handled by Sachin Vaze because he directly reported to the then Commissioner of Police,” the report stated.

The report stated that on completion of “suspension period”, Vaze was reinstated and posted in armed police forces on 8 June, 2020.

“As per oral orders of the then commissioner of police, the then joint commissioner of police (crime) transferred police inspector Vinay Gorphade and Sudhakar Deshmukh to Unit 10 and Unit 1, respectively and Vaze was posted in charge of CIU,” the report stated.

“As per information given on telephone, the then joint commissioner of police (crime) has strongly opposed the posting of Vaze. However, at the insistence of the commissioner of police, the then

joint commissioner of police (crime) unwillingly issued the office order for posting of Vaze in CIU,” the report said.

“Vaze has not followed the rules and he directly and independently reported to the then CoP (Singh) and he investigated under his guidance... was following the guidelines of (Singh) about raid on illegal activities, whom to arrest or not, to call whom as witness and accused of sensitive crimes,” stated the report.

Vaze, who jumped on his own into the investigations involving the recovery of explosive laden SUV near industrialist Mukesh Ambani’s skyscraper mansion in south Mumbai on February 25, also took up points of the CIU in remands, bail, anticipatory bail pleas and other critical decisions, and if he required manpower for various investigations, it was given as per Singh’s directions.

Assam writer arrested on charge of sedition over post on security personnel killed in Chhatisgarh

Guwahati: Assam writer Sikha Sarma was arrested on the charge of sedition and sent to judicial custody on Wednesday for her alleged comment in the social media on security personnel massacred by Maoists in Chhatisgarh, police said.

Sarma had on April 5, two days after the brutal killing of the security personnel, allegedly posted on Facebook “Salaried people cannot be termed martyrs if they die during duty. In that case, an electricity department employee will also be a martyr if he dies due to electrocution. Media do not make the people emotional.”

The post had stirred controversy with over 11,000 comments and at least 1,600 shares in Facebook.

The police registered a case against Sarma under Sections 124A (sedition), 294A (keeping lottery office), 500 (defamation) and 506 (criminal intimidation) along with Section 45 (residuary penalty) of IT Act after receiving complaints from two BJP workers on Monday.

“She was arrested last night and today we produced her before the Kamrup (Metro) district court. We did not seek

police custody. She has been sent to 14 days of judicial custody,” Guwahati Police Commissioner Munna Prasad Gupta told PTI.

On April 3, suspected Maoists killed 22 security personnel from different forces and wounded 31 others in an ambush in Chhattisgarh.

Out of them, two CRPF personnel - Inspector Dilip Kumar Das and Constable Babul Rabha who were killed hailed from Assam which had led to public outpouring of grief in the state.

Earlier, Sarma had faced rape threats on social media over her regular posts against the ruling BJP in the state. She had filed a complaint to the police on it and no action has been taken against anyone.

In 2017, the defence and home ministries had told the Central Information Commission in response to an RTI query that there was no term as “martyr” or “shahid” in the Army or police and instead a soldier or a policeman killed in action was called a “battle casualty” or “operations casualty” respectively.

Night curfew across Punjab, political gatherings banned

PTI ■ CHANDIGARH

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh announced on Wednesday extension of night curfew across Punjab and a ban on political gatherings till April 30 due to the surge in coronavirus cases.

Singh slammed his Delhi counterpart Arvind Kejriwal and Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Singh Badal for their “irresponsible conduct” in attending rallies without following coronavirus guidelines.

Making it clear that those violating the ban on political gatherings would be booked under the Disaster Management Act and the Epidemic Diseases Act, Singh said he had been forced to order the ban as his pleas to parties to refrain from organising such events had been ignored.

Singh said he was surprised at the “behaviour of certain political leaders, including Kejriwal and Badal, who had been attending political rallies without following safety protocols.”

The chief minister said “such irresponsible conduct doesn’t behave them”. “How do you expect people to be serious about the spread of the disease if senior political leaders behave like this?” he asked.

The chief minister said the night curfew, which was imposed in 12 districts, would be extended to all 22 districts of the state. He also directed Director General of Police Dinkar Gupta to ensure strict implementation of the curfew from 9 pm to 5 am. As part of the fresh curbs, the number of people who can attend funerals and weddings has been reduced to 50 people for indoors and 100 for outdoors.

Don’t be...

From page 1

He asked teachers to guide students and told parents to never create fear in the minds of their children as it instills negativity in them. Parents should instead reinforce positive motivation, he said.

Parents unwittingly at times make children “instruments” of fulfilling their dreams and goals, he said, advising them against this, he said.

In February, it was announced that Modi’s annual interaction with students would be held online this year in view of the Covid-19 pandemic. The first edition of the prime minister’s interaction programme with school and college students “Pariksha Pe Charcha 1.0” was held at the Talkatora Stadium on February 16, 2018. Student who wanted to understand

how free time can be utilized, PM Modi answered, “Free time is a treasure, it should not be wasted. It is important to have some free time otherwise your life becomes robotic. Help your family members and spend time in recreational activities that give you happiness. Do story writing, painting etc.”

Answering parents who asked how to raise kids in changing times and how to ensure that they are given good values, PM Modi suggested to not burden the children with their values. “Students must be given values by their parents and family but sometimes we need to self-evaluate the situation. Children don’t need to follow the same value as their parents,” he said.

He also talked about food habits of students and said nowadays kids eat a lot of junk food, this has really become a concern for the parents.

Gherao...

From page 1

Later, the BJP leadership said they had complained to the Commission about the Chief Minister’s provocative speeches. “There is a clear tactic in uttering such provocative words... She is expecting a defeat as her mercenaries have failed to rig the elections due to the presence of the central forces... this is the reason she has become nervous and agitated and is trying to incite the general public against the central forces,” said BJP leader Sisir Bajoria.

The BJP leader said that they wanted the Commission to censure the Chief Minister “otherwise she will continue to play this dirty game to create an untoward situation from where she can draw sympathy votes.” Bengal has witnessed sporadic violence and several deaths during the elections. On the BJP’s

Wearing mask...

From page 1

The wearing of a face mask was “one measure which saved millions of lives” during the pandemic, it pointed out.

The court further noted in its verdict that upon the outbreak of the pandemic, globally as well as nationally, scientists, researchers, international organizations and governments emphasised the importance of wearing facial masks to control the spread of the disease.

“In the absence of a complete definitive cure, the world continues to wrestle with the pandemic. The challenge of the pandemic was enormous at the outbreak of the same and even with the introduction of a few vaccines, the emphasis continues to be laid on wearing face masks. The wearing of masks is necessary irrespective of whether a person is vaccinated or not,” it said.

The lawyers, in their pleas, had

contended that the District Magistrates who were vested with the powers to impose fines could not have sub-delegated the powers to others.

Disagreeing with the contention, Justice Singh said that the definition of ‘authorised persons’ being inclusive and expansive in nature, District Magistrates were also vested with powers to further authorise any officers to issue challans.

“The list of officers, who were authorised is broad and in the opinion of this court it has to be interpreted expansively and not restrictively... The challans have been issued by duly authorised officers. The prayer for quashing of the challans is thus not sustainable,” the court said.

It further said that being lawyers and advocates, the petitioners “ought to recognise and assist in the implementation of the measures for curtailing the spread of the pandemic, instead of questioning the legality of the same”.

Covid patients at greater risk...

From page 1

As a result, health care systems need to be resourced to deal with the anticipated need, both within primary and secondary care services,” he said.

This latest study analysed data from the electronic health records of 236,379 COVID-19 patients from the US-based TriNetX network, which includes more than 81 million people. This group was compared with 105,579 patients diagnosed with influenza and 236,038 patients diagnosed with any respiratory tract infection (including influenza). “Our results indicate that brain diseases and psychiatric disorders are more common after COVID-19 than after flu or other respiratory infections, even when patients are matched for other risk factors,” Dr Max Taquet, a co-author of the study from Oxford University.

“We now need to see what happens beyond six months. The study cannot reveal the mechanisms involved, but does point to the need for urgent research to identify these, with a view to preventing or treating them,” he said. Their peer-reviewed paper, published in ‘Lancet Psychiatry’, was funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre.

Businesses...

From page 1

Each person is eligible to pick up a 50 gram pack of bhakarwadi after each shot.

In East Delhi, a restaurant owner is giving a 30 per cent discount on biryani and 25 per cent discount on chicken dishes to customers who can verify that they have been vaccinated against Covid-19. Restaurants and hotels in Old Delhi too are giving out special discounts of 20 per cent to 30 per cent to those carrying a vaccine card. A restaurant in Gurgaon is even giving out free beer if you show up with your vaccination card. The North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) also offers a 15 per cent tax rebate on filing property tax returns before June.

Maoists post...

From page 1

In a bid to obtain leads on the whereabouts of Manhas, police are carrying out searches and contacting villagers, social organisations, public representatives and journalists, an officer said on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, tribal activist Soni Sori left for the encounter site on Wednesday to appeal to the Naxalites to release the trooper.

“The Government should have taken some steps by now to secure his release. I cannot wait. I want that jawan should be freed safely for which I am going to the incident site,” Sori told reporters.

In the statement, which was issued in the name of Vikalp, spokesperson of the Dandakaranya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC) of Maoists, Naxals had also said that Manhas will be released after the Government names mediators. “He will remain safe in our captivity till then,” it had said.

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

On Saturday, the gunfight broke out between security forces and ultras between Tekalguda and Jonaguda villages in which 22 troopers were killed and 31 others injured.

Out of the 22, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) lost eight personnel, including seven CoBRA commandos and one jawan of its ‘Bastariya’ battalion, eight from the DRG and six from the Special Task Force.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

THANKSGIVING

Thank you St jude for your blessings. Celine.

PD(8974)C

Thank you Mother Mary for your blessings. Celine.

PD(8975)C

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform that the documents relating to A-5 162-B, Jania Fiat Paschim Vihar New Delhi 63 of Late Smt. Savitri Mehta w/o Late Sh. T.N Mehta has been lost / misplaced for which FIR had been lodged (No. LR 20957/2020) DT 28.2.2020 in the Police Station Paschim Vihar New Delhi 63. No information in this regard has been received so far. Details of documents 1. Demand letter 2. Possession letter 3. Installation receipts paid, NOC letter and other related documents. In case any information in this regard made available may please inform me on undermentioned mobile number 8130688831 C.D. Dutta

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that: Mr. Nairinder Pal Singh owner of 2/3 share & Mr. Gurmeet Singh owner of 1/3 share of Property bearing no. 3/1, area measuring 200 sq. yds., situated at West Patel Nagar New Delhi. Vide two separate intimation letter both dated 14.02.2018 has lost / misplaced SMC certificate stating legal heirs of late. Mr. Charanjit Singh. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 200, Hind Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-110 002. Ph: 91-11-4112527-28 kumarsassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

Now, Vaze...

From page 1

Vaze was reinstated in service on June 6, 2020, 16 years after he had been suspended on March 3, 2004, along with 14 other policemen for the alleged custodial death of Khwaja Yunus, a suspect in the December 2, 2002 Ghatkopar bomb blast case.

Vaze claimed in his letter that soon after his reinstatement, there were efforts to reverse his reinstatement reportedly at the behest of NCP chief Sharad Pawar. “Apparently then, it was ordered by Sharad Pawar to again place me under suspension. This was told to me by Home Minister Anil Deshmukh over phone from Nagpur,” Vaze stated in his letter.

“The Home Minister told me at that time that he will convince Pawar saheb and for that purpose, he asked me to pay Rs 2 crore. I had expressed my inability to pay such a huge amount. On this the Home Minister asked me to pay it in later course,” Sachin Vaze wrote.

In a reiteration of the allegation made by Mumbai’s former Police Commissioner against Deshmukh, Vaze alleged that in January 2021, Deshmukh had called him to his official bungalow “Dnyaeshvari” where the Minister’s PA Kundan was also present. “The Minister sir told me that there are 1650 bars and restaurants in Mumbai to collect Rs 3 to 3.5 lakh from each of these (establishments) for him”.

“Then I told him that there would be about 200 bars and not 1650 bars as he was anticipating. I told him that I would not be in a position to collect any such amount from

such bar as it was beyond the scope of my capabilities. Immediately after coming out, his PA Kundan advised me that I must comply with the instructions of the Minister if I am to keep my job and post intact. I still refused,” Vaze stated in his letter.

Vaze, who was on March 13 suspended from the service over his alleged involvement in the explosive laden SUV planting case, said that “immediately after this meeting, I narrated the happenings to the CP Sir (Param Bir Singh). I expressed my apprehension that some time in near future, I would be embroiled in a false controversy. Then the CP encouraged me not to involve in any illegal collection of money from any one for any one”.

In his allegation against Shiv Sena Minister Anil Parab, Vaze claimed that in July-August, 2020, Vaze claimed Parab had called him to his official bungalow and told him to look into a complaint concerning the Saifee Burhani Upliftment Trust (SBUT), which was under preliminary enquiry and asked him to bring the SBUT trustees to him for negotiations about the enquiry.

“He (Parab) also insisted to initiate primary talks to get Rs 50 crore from the SBUT in order to close the said enquiry. I had expressed my inability to do any such things as I do not know anyone from the SBUT and also I did not have any control over the enquiry,” Vaze contended in his statement.

Vaze also claimed that Parab again called him in January 2021, asked him to probe some fraudulent contractors listed in the BrihanMumbai Municipal Corporation and asked him to collect Rs 2 crore each from 50 such contractors. “The said enquiry is going under preliminary enquiry and till my transfer from the CIU nothing incriminating was found,” Vaze wrote.

RBI leaves...

From page 1

Further, he noted that some respite from the incidence of domestic taxes on petroleum products through coordinated action by the Centre and states could provide relief on top of the recent easing of international crude prices.

Also, Das said that a combination of high international commodity prices and logistics costs may push up input price pressures across manufacturing and services.

“Taking into consideration all these factors, the projection for CPI inflation has been revised to 5 per cent in Q4:2020-21; 5.2 per cent in Q1:2021-22; 5.2 per cent in Q2; 4.4 per cent in Q3; and 5.1 per cent in Q4, with risks broadly balanced,” he said.

Earlier, the central bank projected a retail inflation at 5.2 per cent for the 2021 March quarter, which now has been revised down to 5 per cent.

Hoping that cereal prices should soften because of bumper foodgrains production in 2020-21, he said mitigation of price pressures on key food items such as protein-based components and edible oils would also depend on supply-side measures and easing of international prices.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) noted that underlying inflation pressures emanate from high international commodity prices and logistics costs, according to Das. “The softening in crude prices seen in recent weeks, if it sustains, can assuage input cost pres-

ures.”

“An inflation rate of 4 per cent over the medium term has now been successfully entrenched in the economic landscape,” Das said.

According to RBI, since the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was constituted in September 2016, average CPI inflation during October 2016 to February 2020 -- prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic -- was 3.8 per cent, down from the average of 7.3 per cent during January 2012 to September 2016.

“Our research suggests that trend inflation has moderated during the flexible inflation targeting period to around 4 per cent in recent times. The experience during the COVID-19 period has testified to the flexibility of the framework to respond to sharp growth-inflation trade-offs and extreme supply-side shocks over the course of the business cycle,” Das said.

He also said that monetary policy over the next five years would aim at consolidating and building upon the credibility gains of the first five years of flexible inflation targeting.

Taking cues from high frequency data, RBI said economic activity is normalising in spite of the surge in infections. Rural demand remains buoyant and record agriculture production in 2020-21 bodes well for its resilience.

Urban demand has gained traction and should get a fillip with the ongoing vaccination drive, RBI said even as it cautioned that the recent surge in COVID-19 infections adds uncertainty to the domestic growth outlook amidst tightening of restrictions by some states.

COVID-19 NIGHT CURFEW

Curbs to clamp down on social gatherings: Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on Wednesday said night curfew was imposed in the national Capital following reports that parties and social gatherings were being organised in various parts of the city at a time when COVID-19 cases are surging.

"The night curfew has been imposed between 10 pm in the night to 5 am in the morning. There were reports about parties, which cause unnecessary gatherings and people are in close contact here. Hence the night curfew is aimed to avoid this situation," he said.

Jain also feared that if the positivity rate escalated and safety norms were not followed by people, the new cases could breach the last single-day spike record registered in November last year.

The Health Minister said that Delhi saw 5100 positive cases and 103453 tests were conducted. The positivity rate was at 4.93 per cent. Delhi's positivity rate is looming at around five per cent.

In the past few three weeks, Delhi has seen a surge in the number of positive cases. "The

Delhi Government is escalating the number of beds in the hospitals. In the last three days, more than 2000 beds have been added and in the coming 2-3 days, an additional 2000-2500 will be increased," he said.

Jain said that covid has lasted for more than a year and the most effective way to curb the infection is to wear a mask and follow the protocol of sanitisation and social distancing.

"The night curfew in Delhi from 10 pm to 5 am has been done to avoid unnecessary crowds that could cause the virus to spread. The curfew was done temporarily and the impact will be analysed," he said.

Jain said that as per the new trend, the virus was fast spreading among the people aged between 20-45 years, who may not get affected much but can pose a threat to the elderly at homes. Therefore, the vaccination should now be made available to all ages.

Talking about the effectiveness of the night curfew, Jain added, "We cannot impose night curfew in certain parts, it has to be applied to all of Delhi. However it has been done for the time being. We will analyse the impact. It is not a harsh deci-

800 challaned for not wearing mask

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Over 800 people were issued challans for not wearing masks while more than 200 cases were registered on the first night after the curfew was imposed from 10 pm to 5 am in the national Capital, due to rise in the number of Covid cases.

According to data shared by police, a total of 534 people were booked under other preventive action under sections 65 Delhi Police Act (persons bound to comply with the reasonable directions of police officer), 107 (security for keeping the peace in other cases) and 151 (Arrest to prevent the commission of cognizable offences) of CrPC.

Police issued 842 challans to people for not wearing mask and 220 cases were registered across the city.

The west district lodged five First Information Reports (FIRs) and issued 31 challans during night curfew. A total of 49 people were prosecuted in outer district and one in New Delhi district while south and southeast district filed 13 and



118 cases respectively.

In northwest district, 59 people booked for violating the rules, officials said, adding that two persons were booked under 188 IPC, six under Delhi Police Act and 32 challans were issued in east district. No case has been registered at Shahdara district.

Police said they had made announcements regarding night curfew in the market places and other crowded places in the respective area of every police stations.

The Delhi government on Tuesday had

imposed seven hours of night curfew in view of rising COVID-19 cases. The decision was taken after the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) reviewed the COVID-19 situation in the city. The DDMA order for curfew from 10 pm to 5 am will continue till April 30.

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

On Tuesday, Delhi recorded 5,100 new COVID-19 cases, the highest this year. "Delhi Police will strictly enforce it except for the exempted categories mentioned in the order. All concerned should strictly observe the restrictions as given in the DDMA order," police public relations officer Chinmoy Biswal had said.

"Fresh movement passes will be issued on demand. Those requiring it and qualifying for it can also visit Delhi Police website to apply for it. All field functionaries will be available in their jurisdictions to enforce the DDMA order and to facilitate the exempted categories," he added.

sion, it will start from 10 PM in the night and people generally finish their work by then."

Responding to the queries surrounding loss of employ-

ment due to the night curfew, Jain said, "Taxis are allowed and if someone is coming from outside and have valid tickets they can travel. For restaurants and

hotels, the timing is anyway 11 PM."

Talking about functioning of OPDs in Delhi Governments hospitals as it is closed in

AIIMS, Jain added, "We have directed all Delhi Governments hospitals to increase the Covid beds and they would take further decisions accordingly."

12K diesel autos to go off road to clean Gurugram lungs

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM:

In an order to decrease vehicular pollution in Gurugram, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) has decided to take off road around 12,000 diesel autos which are 10 years old and are currently plying on different stretches in Gurugram.

Under the project 'Parivartan' the MCG has started work in the direction of adopting e-vehicles in order to make a pollution-free city.

Under the initiative, officials of the MCG, officials of the Regional Transport Authority RTA and the Police Department have held a special discussion with the auto union and auto drivers in Gurugram on Wednesday.

While addressing the auto union representatives and auto drivers, Additional Commissioner of MCG zone-IV Jaspreet Kaur said that environmental pollution is a serious problem and to resolve this issue, short-term measures are being taken from time to time, but long term remedy is very important.

"Target of implementing 2000 e-vehicles by the civic body has been set and in collaboration with auto unions and driver, we will apply it and will be successful in making Gurugram a pollution free city," Kaur said.

RTA Secretary Dhaarna Yadav said that changes in traffic according to time are necessary and it benefits all.

"In the first phase, 10 years old diesel auto will be changed to e-rickshaw or e-autos. Under this, the interests of all will be taken care of. Also, the maintenance of e-rickshaw or e-auto is low and the technique is better. Provision of charging stations in Gurugram will be done under this scheme," Yadav said.

Yadav informed that according to the record, Gurugram has approximately 12 thousand diesel autos which are 10 years old, which will be changed in the first phase.

"There are charging points at the places of Industrial Vihar, Golf Course Road, City Center and South City in Gurugram, which will be increased according to future aspects," she added.

BJP HEADQUARTERS

AAP protests against export of Covid jab

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party on Wednesday staged a protest outside the BJP headquarters against the Narendra Modi Government's decision to export Covid vaccines.

Hundreds of party workers gathered outside the BJP headquarter and raised slogans against the Central Government.

Senior AAP leader and Chief



Spokesperson Saurabh Bhardwaj said that the 130 crore population of India ought to have the first

right over the vaccine that has been created by scientists of our country. He also said that COVID cases are on the rise and people are dying but the Narendra Modi government is busy exporting the vaccine to other countries instead of providing it to India's population.

Bhardwaj also said that the AAP demands that the vaccine be made available free of cost to all Indian citizens so that we may be

rid of COVID and can improve the economy of the country.

"All that we are trying to say to the Centre is that if the vaccine is already available in our country, it must be made available to all. Vaccine for Malaria, Polio, TB, and Typhoid can be availed from pharmacies. Why hasn't the COVID vaccine been made available at pharmacies, general physicians and to the citizens?" he asked.

Yamuna pollution: 13 CETPs issued showcause notice for not adhering to prescribed standards

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) has issued show cause notice to all 13 Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETPs) in the national Capital after officials found them "non-operational" or not adhering to prescribed effluent standards as a result of which the Yamuna is getting massively polluted.

According to a DPCC order an environmental compensation of Rs 12.05 crore will be imposed on these CETPs if they fail to submit a reply within 15 days.

"These CETPs have been found non-functional or not complying with prescribed effluent standards even after repeated directions by the DPCC, as a result of which the Yamuna is getting massively polluted," a statement from the office of Environment Minister Gopal Rai said.

"These CETPs were found not complying with prescribed effluent standards even after repeated directions being given by the DPCC. The Delhi government is working continuously towards fulfilling his dream of making the Yamuna clean by 2023. The Delhi government has taken several effective measures to clean the Yamuna on a war footing," it said.

"The DPCC has found that the 13 CETPs of Delhi are either non-functional or partially functional which is causing massive pollution to the Yamuna. CETPs play a key role to treat the polluted waters coming out from the industries; therefore, the prescribed effluent standards should be maintained. After repeated interventions where they have not complied with our directions, stern action has been taken and in the near future, we will monitor the situation," it added.

Gang of 4 involved in 100 burglaries arrested

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Crime Branch of Delhi Police has arrested a gang of four men, allegedly involved in more than 100 burglaries across the country. Police said that all are Bangladeshi nationals who had illegally settled in India since the last few years and due to lack of education and to make easy money, they took to crimes.

The accused have been identified as Rafiq Laskar, (33), Md. Salim, (26), Ajizul Rehman (25) and Md. Razzak, (36).

According to Shibesh Singh, the Additional Commissioner of Police, Crime, on Monday, a tip-off was received that some burglars would gather in Arun Jaitley Park, Siri Fort Road, and might commit a burglary in the posh

area of Hauz Khas.

"Police team conducted a raid and apprehended four accused persons from the spot. The gang members confessed to have committed more than 100 burglaries across India including places like Faridabad, Jodhpur, Aurangabad, Gulbarga, Vapi, Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai," said the additional CP.

"They carried weapons and house breaking tools with them and in case, they even held people hostage in case, anyone in the house woke up during theft," said the additional CP.

Police have also recovered one country made pistol, two push button knives, four live cartridges and house breaking implements from the possession of the accused, police said, adding further investigation is underway.

First-ever wildlife census to be conducted in Asola Sanctuary

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi forest department will conduct the first-ever wildlife census in the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary in the national Capital this year, and one of its 'focal points will be leopards', according to officials. The census is scheduled to start in July and will take at least three months to complete, they said.

"It is one of the priorities for the department this year. We will try and make it a regular affair. Yearly censuses will help ascertain changes in wildlife in the area," Deputy Conservator of Forests (South Division) Amit Anand told PTI.

The wildlife sanctuary covers 32.71 sqkm area on the southern Delhi Ridge of Aravalli hill range on the Delhi-Haryana border.

It lies in southern Delhi and northern parts of Faridabad and Gurgaon districts of Haryana and is part of the Northern Aravalli leopard wildlife corridor, which extends from the Sariska National Park in Rajasthan to Delhi Ridge.

The objective is to ascertain how many species are present in the sanctuary, how are these distributed and what problems do they face in a particular area, Anand said. "For



example, sometimes, jackal sightings are restricted to a particular area. It could be due to some physical barrier or disturbance. Scientific interventions will be made to resolve such issues and to improve wildlife habitat with the help of census data," he said.

The official said leopards will be one of the focal points of the census, but other species and birds are equally important. "No animal should be neglected," he said. "The census will help us enrich the habitat of leopards, ensuring availability of food and water," the official added.

Sohaail Madan of the Bombay Natural History Society said several leopard sightings have been recorded in the sanctuary by their staff and forest officials over the last two years.

"There are leopards, at least, who have found habitat in

the sanctuary. It could be a family, too," he said. Anand said there is sufficient manpower available to take up the counting. Besides, the department will involve volunteers from schools and colleges.

The sanctuary will be divided into grids and teams will be formed, one for every grid, he said.

A methodology will be prepared and these teams will be trained accordingly. The department will rope in Bombay Natural History Society and Wildlife Institute of India for training of manpower, he said.

"At present, we are procuring camera traps for this purpose. The census is likely to take at least three months to complete," he said.

The results will be published by December and the exercise is likely to be replicated in other areas of Delhi thereafter, officials said.

FCI making false claims about wheat procurement: AAP Min

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Agriculture Minister, Gopal Rai, stated on Wednesday that the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has not set up a single counter for wheat procurement in Delhi, yet it is making false claims of purchasing the crops on MSP rates from April 1.

Briefing media, Rai said despite the Delhi Government writing a letter thrice, the FCI has not opened any counter yet and the farmers are being forced to sell their wheat to the stockholders at different rates.

Demanding the Central Government's intervention in the matter, Rai said Centre should start their purchase of crops in Najafgarh and Narela Mandi from April 8th. "The officials who are involved in such activities of making false claims and writing that since April 1 the procurement has begun, must be stringently dealt with," he said.

"The Central Government is responsible for fixing MSP of crop and FCI is responsible for making purchases, but BJP is falsely accusing the Delhi Government of not buying wheat on MSP Rates. This is the absurd reality of the Prime Minister's assurance to buy crops at MSP rates, MSP will sustain," Rai said.

"It is very important to

make MSP a legal guarantee," Rai said demanding the central government to convene immediate purchase at MSP rates in Najafgarh and Narela Mandis.

"Stringent action should be taken against the culprits who are making these false claims that the counters of purchase have been set up in these mandis Delhi from April 1," he added further.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader mentioned about the ongoing farmers' protest, he said, "In the face of the farmers' movement, the ripening of wheat all across the country has been done, and the harvest has already begun. In New Delhi, which is the national capital, a very small area of land is facilitated for farming, including areas like Narela, Bawana, Mundka, Najafgarh, and Mehrauli. "In such areas, ripening of wheat has been done and harvest season has commenced." However, in spite of repeatedly requesting the Food Corporation of India (FCI), which is operated by the central government, in all the mandis in Delhi, they are not ready to purchase the crops at MSP designated rates and set up their own counters," he added.

Delhi government on 11 February had written to FCI stating the corporation must make the requisite preparations

for purchase of wheat in Mandis of Delhi so as to enable the timely sale of crops and the farmers to get their yields sold at MSP rates.

"They have an exclusive performance according to which the letters are drafted to them, which we did and sent to the FCI. After this, we sent another letter as a reminder to the previous one on 1st March and requested the same in this letter again. Post which, they replied to us stating that they will be setting up counters in FSD Mayapuri, FSD Shakti Nagar, Narela Mandi, and Najafgarh Mandi for purchase of the crops. However, after repeated complaints from various farmers, we did a review of the mandis the day before and it was found that no counters have been set up as of yet. On April 6th, we again sent a letter to the FCI and requested them to set up counters at least in Najafgarh and Narela Mandis, where farmers come to sell their crops, and they must guarantee that the counters will be set up. The most astounding bit is: that there were no counters that were set up, but they replied in the form of a letter and mentioned that the counters have already been set up from March 1st and the purchase of crops is already being done," he added.

Sh. Manohar Lal Chohan
Chief Minister, Haryana

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India, Kazakhstan to bolster defence ties

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Kazakhstan will review their bilateral defence and strategic ties during talks here on Thursday between visiting Defence Minister Lt General Nurlan Yermekbayev and his Indian counterpart Rajnath Singh.

Giving details on Wednesday, defence ministry officials said the Kazakhstan minister is on an official visit to India from April 7-10. He arrived in Jodhpur on Wednesday and is expected to travel to Jaisalmer, New Delhi and Agra for meetings and visit to defence establishments.

Yermekbayev will hold a bilateral meeting with Rajnath on Thursday. This will be the first meeting after Yermekbayev was re-appointed as Defence Minister of Kazakhstan.

The two Ministers had last met in Moscow on September five last year on the sidelines of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting. The Kazakh Defence Minister is in India on the invitation of the Indian Defence Minister, they said.

Relations between India and Kazakhstan are ancient and historical going back to

India was one of the first countries to recognise the independence of Kazakhstan. Diplomatic relations were established in February 1992

more than 2,000 years. There has been a constant and regular flow of trade in goods and, more importantly, exchange of ideas and cultural influences. The flow of Buddhism from India to Central Asia and Sufi ideas from Central Asia to India are two such examples.

India was one of the first countries to recognise the independence of Kazakhstan. Diplomatic relations were established in February 1992. The first Prime Minister of India Jawahar Lal Nehru accompanied by daughter Indira Gandhi visited Almaty in 1955. Dr. Radhakrishnan visited Kazakhstan in 1956 in his capacity as Vice President.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev visited India in February 1992. Thereafter, he

has visited India in 1993 (transit visit), 1996, 2002 and 2009. He was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day parade in New Delhi on January 26, 2009.

Prime Minister Narsimha Rao visited Kazakhstan in 1993, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in June 2002, Manmohan Singh in April 2011 and Narendra Modi in July 2015 (bilateral visit) and June 2017 (SCO summit).

Defence cooperation is an essential pillar of strategic partnership with Kazakhstan (bilateral relations enhanced to strategic partnership in 2009). The Indo-Kazakh Defence Cooperation is carried out under the framework of an agreement on 'Defence and Military Technical Cooperation' signed in July 2015.

The new agreement includes conduct of joint training, exercises, military-technical cooperation, UN peace-keeping and exchange of intelligence. Kazakh Armed Forces Unit underwent training on peacekeeping operations in India in April-May 2018 for deployment under the command of an Indian Battalion at UNIFIL, Lebanon, and an MOU in this regard was signed in Astana in August 2018.

World Health Day Focus on fighting Covid, Modi urges people



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the occasion of World Health Day on Wednesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people to focus on fighting Covid-19 by taking all precautions, including wearing a mask, regularly washing hands and following other protocols.

His appeal comes amid a spike in Covid-19 cases with 1,15,736 new cases registered in the last 24 hours, 80 percent of which were contributed by eight States including Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

To make the matter worse, 12 States are displaying an upward trajectory in daily new cases. At least, 630 deaths were reported in the last 24 hours.

"#WorldHealthDay is a day to reaffirm our gratitude and appreciation to all those who work day and night to keep our planet healthy," the Prime Minister tweeted.

It is also a day to reiterate



our commitment to supporting research and innovation in healthcare, Modi said.

"On #WorldHealthDay, let us keep the focus on fighting COVID-19 by taking all possible precautions including wearing a mask, regularly washing hands and following the other protocols," he said in a series of tweets. At the same time, do take all possible steps to boost immunity and stay fit, Modi added.

"The Government of India is taking numerous measures including Ayushman Bharat and PM Janaushadhi Yojana to ensure people get access to top quality and

affordable healthcare," Modi said.

India is also conducting the world's largest vaccination drive to strengthen the fight against COVID-19, he asserted.

India's total active caseload has reached 8,43,473. It now comprises 6.59 per cent of the country's total positive cases. A net incline of 55,250 cases recorded from the total active caseload in the last 24 hours.

M a h a r a s h t r a, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh cumulatively account for 74.5 percent of India's total active cases. Maharashtra alone

accounts for 56.17 percent of the total active caseload of the country. Of 630 deaths reported in the last 24 hours, eight States account for 84.44 percent of the new deaths. Maharashtra saw the maximum casualties (297) followed by Punjab (61).

However, amid worrying trends, eleven States/UTs provided relief as not Covid-19 deaths were reported in the last 24 hours. These are Odisha, Ladakh (UT), D&D, D&N, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Manipur, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, A&N Islands and Arunachal Pradesh.

US envoy for climate John Kerry calls on PM Modi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday and discussed issues relating to climate, including a forthcoming summit of 40 world leaders.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said the discussions focussed on the climate leaders' summit as well as issues in the context of the upcoming United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Kerry is currently on a visit to India.

"US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry @ClimateEnvoy called on PM @narendramodi. Discussions centred on forthcoming Climate Leaders' Summit as well as climate issues in the context of the @COP26 to the @UNFCCC which is to be held later this year," Bagchi said in a tweet.

Kerry held separate meetings with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar on Tuesday with a focus on issues relating to global climate action.

Following the meetings, Kerry, in a tweet, described India as a "vital partner in our fight against the climate crisis. We must raise ambition together, or we will fail together".

Climate change has been a major area of focus for US President Joe Biden. After taking charge as the president, Biden, on January 20, announced the return of the United States to the Paris climate accord.

Biden has invited 40 world leaders, including Modi, to the virtual summit on climate crisis later this month.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin are among the key leaders invited to the two-day conference beginning April 22.

India's leadership displayed will to uphold vital national interests: CDS Rawat

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Underlining that the country is facing multiple and varied security threats, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat said here on Wednesday the leadership displayed political will to uphold national interests in the face of "unprovoked assault" on its security and dignity.

This observation was in apparent reference to the nearly ten month long tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh last year. The border was face-offs and violent brawl.

Incidentally, his remarks came days ahead of the likely 11th round of meeting of the Corps Commanders of India and China to work out disengagement plan from the face-off sites in Ladakh. The meeting is likely to take place on Saturday.

Addressing a seminar here, Rawat said the country is facing multiple and varied security threats and challenges across the full spectrum of conflicts— from proxy war to hybrid to non-contact conventional war.

He asserted that India will have to develop capabilities to deal with such challenges firmly and vigorously without creating any insecurity among its friends.

In his address, the CDS also referred to evolution of India's military, and said the country must come out of the temptation of looking at the western world for security solutions, and instead, tell the world to come and learn from its vast experience in dealing with diverse challenges.

Rawat said India's external threats can be met with effective diplomacy and adequate defence capability but at the same time noted that strong political institutions, economic growth and social harmony are prerequisite for internal stability.

Vardhan accuses States of indulging in politics on jobs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan on Wednesday accused a bunch of States like Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh of playing vaccine politics and said some political leaders were spreading panic among people to distract attention from their failures in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Playing politics is easy, but improving governance and health infrastructure is the real test," the Minister said highlighting the inability of some states to contain the coronavirus transmission and increase the vaccination.

Amid demand from Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh who have sent an SOS alert to the Centre over Covid-19 vaccine scarcity, the Minister asserted that there was no shortage of vaccines.

He also took exception to the statements being made by a section of political leaders asking to open up vaccination to everyone above the age of 18, or to drastically lower the minimum age criteria for vaccination eligibility.

"Primary aim of vaccination is to reduce mortality among the most vulnerable people and enable society to beat the pandemic. "So long



as the supply of vaccines remains limited, there is no option but to prioritize," said Harsh Vardhan.

When states ask to open up vaccine supplies to everyone over 18, we must presume that they have done saturation coverage of healthcare workers, frontline workers and senior citizens. But the facts are altogether different, he tried to make his point.

Harsh Vardhan minced no words as he said that Maharashtra has vaccinated just only 86 percent of health workers with the first dose. The equivalent numbers for Delhi and Punjab are 72 percent and 64 percent.

On the other hand, 10 Indian states/UTs have done more than 90 percent. Further, Maharashtra has vaccinated just 41 percent of

healthcare workers with a second dose.

Equivalent numbers for Delhi and Punjab are 41 percent and 27 percent.

The Minister continued with his attack on the Senaruled State as he said, "When it comes to senior citizens, Maharashtra has vaccinated just 25%, Delhi has vaccinated only 13%. There are 4 states/UTs that have already vaccinated more than 50%".

"Doesn't it seem evident that these states are trying to divert attention from their poor vaccination efforts by just continuously shifting the goal-posts? Politicizing such a public health issue is a damning indictment of certain political leaders who should know better," the Minister said.



"The lackadaisical attitude of the State Government has singularly bogged down the entire country's efforts to fight the virus," he said as he also talked about Chhattisgarh and urged the state government to focus on its energies on ramping up their health infrastructure rather than on petty politicking.

"Chhattisgarh has seen a disproportionately higher number of deaths in the last 2-3 weeks. Their testing remains heavily dependent on rapid antigen tests which is not a wise strategy. The state Government in fact refused to use Covaxin despite it being given Emergency Use Authorisation (EUA) by the Drug Controller of India."

In fact, many other States also need to bring their healthcare systems up to the mark. For example, the quality of testing needs to improve in Karnataka, Rajasthan and Gujarat.

In Punjab, the high Case Fatality Rate needs to be improved by early identification of those needing hospitalization. Mask-wearing and social distancing compliance are slack in a large number of States, he said.

EC notice to Didi for breaching poll code



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Wednesday issued notice to West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for allegedly violating the model code of conduct over her comments in which seeking votes on communal grounds in a speech on April 3 in Tarakeshwar, Hooghly. Mamata has urged Muslim voters not to let their votes be split among different political parties. The Commission has asked to explain her stand within 48 hours after receipt of the notice.

"Whereas the statement made by Mamata Banerjee on April 3, 2021 has been examined in the Commission and the same has been found to be in violation of the provisions contained in Section 123 (3), 3 (A) of the Representation of the People Act 1951 and also clauses (2), (3) and (4) of Part I of General Conduct of Model Code of Conduct for the guid-

EC orders transfer of poll officials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission has ordered the transfer of district election officer of Dakshin Dinajpur Nikhil Nirmal; DEO of Purba Bardhaman Enaur Rahman; and DEO of Pashchim Bardhaman Purnendu Kumar Maji; transferred officers not to be given election-related posting. C Murgan, a 2007 batch IAS officer will replace Nirmal; Shilpa Gaurisaria will replace Enaur Rahman and Anurag Srivastava will replace Purnendu Kumar Maji.

ance of political parties and candidates, the notice read.

Every Indian deserves safe life: Rahul Gandhi on Covid-19 vaccine access

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday batted for Covid-19 vaccine for all, saying every Indian "deserves the chance to a safe life".

The health ministry on Tuesday said the vaccine needs to be given to those who need it and not those who want it. The COVID-19 vaccine is currently available to all Indians above the age of 45 years.

"It's ridiculous to debate needs and wants. Every Indian deserves the chance to a safe life," Gandhi said on Twitter, using the hashtag "#CovidVaccine".

He later shared a video of a person being beaten up by police in Indore for alleged violation of COVID-19 norms.

"Such type of shameful, inhuman behaviour in the name of enforcing Corona guidelines is unacceptable to the country. Where should the public go when policemen who are supposed to protect people commit such atrocities," he said in a tweet in Hindi.

Gandhi also lauded the health warriors on World Health Day and shared a picture of his with them on Instagram.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS DIVISION, SUNDARGARH
E-Mail - rw_sundargarh@yahoo.co.in

E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
BID IDENTIFICATION NO. ONLINE-EESNG-18 of 2020-21

- Name of the Work :- Road Works
- Total No. of works :- 13 nos Road
- Estimated cost :- Rs. 2.65 Lakhs to Rs. 37.17 Lakhs
- Class of contractor :- 'D', 'C' & 'B'
- Period of completion :- 02 calendar months
- Type of Tender :- Single Cover
- Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	
		From	To
1 Executive Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sundargarh.	2 Online-EESNG-18 of 2020-21	3 09.04.2021 10.00 A.M.	4 17.04.2021 05.30 P.M.

Further details can be seen from the website www.tendersorissa.gov.in

OIPR-25133/11/0001/2122

Executive Engineer
Rural Works Division, Sundargarh

GOVT. OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
NORTH EASTERN RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KEONJHAR

eProcurement Notice for Bridge Works
Identification No. Bridge Online NCB No.299
No. 1520 // Date: 31.03.2021

- Name of the work :- Construction of Bridge work Under BSY for Balance work
- Total no. of work :- 01 (One) No.
- Estimated Cost :- As per Annexure.
- Class of Contractor :- As per Annexure.
- Period of Completion :- As per Annexure.
- Other details

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O S.E.N.E.R.W. Circle, Keonjhar	Technical Bid	Financial Bid
		From	To				
1 Superintending Engineer, North Eastern Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar.	2 Bridge Online NCB No. 299	3 Dt.09.04.21 at 11.00 A.M.	4 Dt.23.04.21 up to 5.00 P.M.	5 Dt.22.04.21 up to 5.00 P.M.	6 Dt.26.04.21 at 11.00 A.M.	7 Will be intimated later	

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersorissa.gov.in

Sd/- P. K. Misra
Superintending Engineer,
N.E.R.W. Circle, Keonjhar

OIPR-25048/11/0001/2122

Cabinet approves production incentive

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a production linked incentive (PLI) scheme for white goods - Air Conditioners and LED Lights - with a budgetary outlay of ₹6,238 crore. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the approval of the scheme for ACs and LEDs will give a boost to domestic manufacturing.

The prime objective of the scheme is to make manufacturing in India globally competitive by removing sectoral disabilities, creating economies of scale and ensuring efficiencies.

It is designed to create a complete component ecosystem in India and make India an integral part of the global supply chains. The scheme is expected to attract global investments, generate large-scale employment opportunities and enhance exports substantially.

"The PLI scheme for white goods shall extend an incentive of 4 percent to 6 percent on incremental sales of goods manufactured in India for a period of five years to companies engaged in manufacturing

Goyal said that the scheme would help in increasing value addition from 25 per cent to 75 per cent in the AC segment and 40-45 per cent in LED lights

of Air Conditioners and LED Lights," an official statement said.

Selection of companies for the scheme will be done to incentivise manufacturing of components or sub-assemblies, which are not manufactured in India presently with sufficient capacity. Mere assembly of finished goods will not be incentivised, the statement said.

Goyal said that the scheme would help in increasing value addition from 25 percent to 75 percent in the AC segment and 40-45 percent in LED lights. About ₹35 lakh crore worth of additional output is expected from 13 sectors, which avail PLI benefits in the next five years, he added.

NGT seeks ATR on plea alleging accumulation of garbage, sewage on Agra canal



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has sought action taken report (ATR) on a plea alleging accumulation of garbage and sewage on the bank of Agra canal, resulting in damage to the environment.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice A K Goel said that action must include diversion of sewage to STP, rejuvenating ponds including their de-sludging/ removal of waste and preventing burning of waste.

"We direct that further action be taken expeditiously and action taken report filed before the next date by e-mail," the bench said.

The tribunal was hearing a plea filed by Faridabad residents Tulinder Katoch and others stating that the piled-up garbage and flowing sewage is affecting the health of the children studying in the nearby schools.

Apart from municipal garbage, there is also plastic waste, construction and demolition waste, bio-medical waste and e-waste, the plea said.

"There is pool of stagnant water giving rise to mosquitoes and having potential for diseases. The applicant approached the concerned authorities but no action has been taken. The applicant has filed photographs showing the collected garbage and waste water," the plea said.



Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

Vaccination Campaign

Stop Corona New Strain

Mega Vaccination campaign on Every Monday & Tuesday

Eligible beneficiaries can get vaccine from Govt. hospitals or private hospitals authorised by Govt.

Covid-19 appropriate behaviour is mandatory, Strict action for not wearing mask

Focus on screening and testing of every student in schools



Muslim League worker killed in post-poll clash

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A Muslim League worker was hacked to death and his brother was grievously assaulted allegedly by CPI(M) activists in Kerala's Kannur district within hours of the conclusion of the elections to the State Assembly.

Manzoor who was hacked by a group of persons around 8 pm in front of his house late Tuesday night breathed his last in the wee hours of Wednesday at a corporate hospital in Kozhikode. His brother Mohsin was injured in the attack has been admitted to a hospital in a critical stage.

R Ilango, superintendent of police, Kannur, said the murder was political in nature and a neighbor of Manzoor has been taken into custody. He refused to disclose more details as the police was into the process of investigation. "We have enough information that proves that more than ten persons were injured in this attack," he said.

Muslim League leader P K Kunhalikutty visited the residence of the victim and consoled the parents. Elsewhere in the State, the CPI(M) launched attacks on Congress workers resulting in the hospitalization of two workers belonging to the Grand Old Party get-

ting seriously injured.

"The CPI(M) has become a party of murderers and they have been taken over by a fear of losing the polls. The Marxists become violent when they understand that they are about to lose the polls. This has been the precedence in Kerala," said Chennithala while speaking to reporters. Though Wednesday has been by and large peaceful, there was no shortage of verbal duel by the leaders of Congress and the CPI(M). Mullappalli Ramachandran, KPCC president blamed the CPI(M) and BJP for transferring votes to each other with the sole objective of defeating the Congress.

He alleged that the CPI(M) voted in favor of the BJP at Manjeswaram where the Hindutwa party had fielded K Surendran as its candidate while the BJP is believed to have voted in favor of the Congress.

But K Surendran alleged that Ramachandran has lost his mental balance resulting in incoherent statements by the latter. Charges and Counter charges were seen flying from the camps of Marxists and the BJP as the high pitch campaign has given way to a period of inactivity.

All political parties have to undergo a period of inactivity for the next 26 days as results would be announced only on May 2.

Dilip Ghosh's convoy attacked in North Bengal

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

Even as violence continued in Bengal with reports of TMC-BJP clashes coming from all sides, alleged Trinamool supporters attacked the convoy of Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh, at Sitai in the same district in North Bengal.

The incident took place hours after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee delivered an alleged inflammatory speech asking the people of Coochbehar to gherao the central forces and blockade them.

Ghosh suffered minor injuries as stones were pelted at his vehicle breaking its windshield. "We had just ended our meeting and were preparing to move back to Coochbehar when the TMC supporters returning from Mamata Banerjee's rally attacked us with bombs, bamboos and bricks. Many cars were damaged and the BJP leadership had to literally run for safety... the police left us to our fate and our personal security men somehow managed to drive us to Coochbehar."

He said "Mamata Banerjee is leaving jungle raj in Bengal... if the politicians with so much of security have to run for safety like this then one can understand the condition of the common people... how will they come out and vote... this is a ploy by the Chief Minister to scare the voters away... the BJP will definitely bring this to the notice of the Election Commission." Incidentally a BJP supporter was shot dead at Coochbehar on Monday Wednesday morning.

Almost at the same time when Ghosh was being attacked at Coochbehar TMC leader and Goghat candidate Najbul Karim was attacked by alleged BJP men while he was returning to Hooghly from Kolkata. In a skirmish that ensued immediately, quite a few workers from both sides were injured. The BJP leader had been hospitalized with head injuries, sources said.

Maya concerned over Covid safety protocol breach in election rallies

SIANS ■ LUCKNOW

Bahujan Samaj Party President Mayawati on Wednesday expressed concern over the violation of Covid safety protocols in election rallies. In a tweet, she has urged the government and the people to ensure implementation of safety protocols during campaigning and in election rallies.

"The Central and the state governments as well as the public should take the increase in coronavirus cases in the country very seriously. But inaction towards violation of Covid protocol, especially in election rallies and road shows, is a matter of grave concern. It needs appropriate attention," she said.

The number of new coronavirus cases in India has hit a record daily high since the outbreak of the pandemic with over 1.15 lakh new infections being reported in a span of 24 hours, pushing the nationwide Covid-19 infection tally to 1,28,01,785.

TN physician doubts efficacy of Covid jab

CHENNAI: The much acclaimed vaccine for Covid-19 is not effective to fight the pandemic, as it has been made out, according to a highly respected medical physician in Chennai.

Dr CV Krishnaswami, Tamil Nadu's leading physician and a reputed medical scientist with hundreds of research publications in internationally peer reviewed scientific journals has cautioned the State and Central Governments, medical fraternity and civil society against the "false euphoria" after the vaccination.

Tamil Nadu has been diagnosing more than 3000 new cases of Covid-19 on a daily basis since April 1 and doctors do not rule out the possibility

of the daily cases crossing the 4,000 mark this week itself.

Dr Krishnaswami who is also the editor for Indian sub-continent of the international peer reviewed "Journal of the Science of Healing Outcomes", has been monitoring the 'progress' of this pandemic since it was reported from Wuhan in China in early 2020. He along with Padma Vibhushan Prof B M Hegde has been providing valuable medical data and information about the characteristics of Covid-19 to medical researchers and the civil society.

His anguish is a follow up to the sudden upsurge in the number of new Covid-19 cases diagnosed in Tamil Nadu of late.

Relatives of CRPF jawan abducted by Naxals stage protest in J&K

PNS ■ JAMMU

In the absence of any clarity over the fate of CRPF Cobra Commando Rakeshwar Singh Manhas, held hostage by the Maoists in Chhattisgarh since April 3, close family members along with large number of local residents on Wednesday staged a protest demonstration before disrupting traffic on the Jammu Poonch National highway for several hours.

The angry relatives were demanding safe return of the commando at the earliest.

"None of the local authorities have so far visited the residence of the CRPF commando to apprise them about his whereabouts and efforts being made to ensure his early release" said several close relatives while participating in the protest demonstration.



Wife of CRPF commando Rakeshwar Singh Manhas sitting on a dharna in Jammu along with other close relatives on Wednesday demanding his safe return from the custody of Maoists

On the other hand, Maoists leadership Wednesday circulated a photo of the CRPF commando in the media and claimed he was safe in their custody.

In Jammu the family members including wife of the CRPF commando Meenu Chib also heaved a sigh of relief after receiving the information. Meanwhile, several angry

youth, who participated in the dharna questioned the policy of the centre government over handling Naxal threat. They claimed the govt was not initiating action against the Maoists due to political compulsions. The local residents also shouted slogans against the government over causing undue delay in ensuring safe return of the CRPF commando.

The dharna which started around 10.30 a.m continued till 2.30 p.m leading to long traffic jam along the busy route. To prevent congestion the local traffic police authorities had diverted the traffic via other routes to contain the situation in the area.

The dharna was lifted after senior police officers along with local administrative officers pacified them to return to their homes.

Lucknow Covid hotspot now, vax hesitancy rises as top docs infected

Lucknow: Lucknow is turning into the biggest Covid hotspot in Uttar Pradesh.

After 40 doctors in the King George's Medical University (KGMU) tested positive for Covid on Tuesday night, 11 employees of the Axis Bank in the posh Hazratganj locality tested positive for the virus on Wednesday.

As the corona scare gets bigger, vaccine hesitancy is also on the rise since most of those who have tested positive in the medical facilities had received

the vaccination.

KGMU Vice Chancellor, Lt Gen Dr Vipin Puri (retd), has tested positive for Covid for the second time in nine months. He had tested positive in August last year. He took the second dose of vaccine on March 25 last. Dr Sandeep Tewari of KGMU said: "During last four days, around 40 doctors, including Medical Superintendent Dr Himanshu, have tested positive."

Most of the doctors have tested positive despite taking

both the doses of vaccine.

Around 20 doctors of the General Surgery Department have tested positive, as well as nine doctors of the Urology Department and three doctors of the Medicine Department have been tested positive.

Tests of several other faculty members are being conducted after they complained of influenza-like symptoms and their reports will be available later. Screening of entire staff in several departments has been done on Wednesday.

The heads of the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, the Medanta Hospital and the Era Medical college have already tested positive for Covid even after getting vaccinated.

Meanwhile, seven deaths were reported in the state during last 24 hours, taking the death toll to 1,248. They included Professor Brajesh Shukla of Lucknow University, a recipient of Padma Shri, and chief pharmacist of police lines, R.K. Chaudhary.

Panchayat polls: Corona infected voters will also be able to cast votes

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

Administrative preparations for panchayat elections are going on in full swing. In view of the outbreak of corona, the Election Commission has issued orders on this basis. The situation has also become clear regarding the corona infection. If a voter is corona infected, they will also be able to cast vote. However, he will get a chance to vote at the end. Corona protocol has to be fully followed. ADM Finance Legislative Assembly Jaiswal said that the district will go for polls on April 29. Preparations are going on for this. The nomination process will start from 17 April. He told that if a person is corona infected and he is a voter of a gram panchayat, willing to cast his vote, he will be taken by ambulance wearing PPE kit to the concerned polling station. Due to the corona, additional staff have also been placed in the reserve this time. If any employee gets infected during duty at polling or any other place, then another person will do duty in his place. No officer and employee shall conduct elections without using masks, sanitizers. The rules of social distancing will be followed.

Andhra Police crack Gogunuru temple attack case in 24 hours

Gogunuru (Andhra Pradesh): The police in Andhra Pradesh's Chittoor district have cracked a temple attack case at Gogunuru village within 24 hours of the incident on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, a complaint was filed at the Kuppam Urban police station that some unknown miscreants had destroyed the idols at the Subramanya Swamy temple located on top of a hill.

Chittoor police immediately formed three special teams to investigate the case and followed the leads provided by the temple management, priest and a few locals.

"It was unearthed that Jyothi, a mentally unstable lady who frequently visited the temple, desecrated the idols on March 31 under the influence of toddy," said a police officer.

Senthil Kumar, the Superintendent of Police (SP) in Chittoor, said the temple is located at a very isolated spot and is rarely visited by the devotees unless it is a special occasion.

He noted that even the temple priest visits it only once a week.

"The temple management, priest and locals voiced their suspicion on a lady who goes by the name Jyothi. She is mentally unstable and frequently visited the temple at odd hours, according to the locals," said Kumar.

During questioning, Jyothi revealed to the police that she desecrated the idols a week ago after consuming toddy at a local store.

Jyothi told the police that she placed the idols in a ditch 20 metres away from the temple and went back to the village the same day

and told people that she had killed Murugan. But the people did not take her seriously owing to her mental condition.

"Murugan is how Subramanya Swamy is referred to locally. The matter was reported after the priest visited the temple on Tuesday," said the IPS officer.

The southern state has already witnessed umpteen alleged temple attacks in the past few months, sparking wild theories and opportunist political mudslinging.

Irrespective of the government of the day or the political party in power, temple offences occurred in Andhra Pradesh almost every year in the past five years, as per the statistics shared earlier by Director General of Police (DGP) Gautam Sawang.

Under the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government, 163 temple offences were reported in 2015, 139 in 2017, 123 in 2018 and 177 in 2019, when the government transitioned to the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

In 2020, a year which saw an uproar following the chariot burning at the Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy temple in Antarvedi, there were 143 alleged temple offences.

Until January 14 this year, as many as 58,871 religious places have been mapped, while 43,824 CCTV cameras have been installed in 13,089 religious places. As many as 1,635 temple offenders have been rounded up from September 2020 onwards.

A total of 15,394 village defence squads have been formed and the numbers are expected to go up.

Goa unveils new penalties for traffic offences; Opposition cries foul

Panaji: Chief Minister Pramod Sawant-led Government's decision to notify rules for the Central Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Act, 2019, which mandates heavy penalties for traffic related offences has triggered a new flash-point between the Opposition and the BJP-led coalition Government.

A day after the government notified the penalties - which are scheduled to be implemented from May 1 - opposition parties have accused the government of fleecing the state's population, which is already reeling under the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Goa's Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho however said that the state government has only opted for a minimum bracket of fines and penalties, which have been mandated by the amended law.

"With the notification of the new penalties, the government will basically pinch the already empty pockets of the people of Goa," state Congress president Girish Chodankar said on Wednesday.

"We will not allow the government to implement the (amended) Motor Vehicle Act with steep hike in fines and penalties, till proper, safe and secure roads and infrastructure is put in place," Chodankar also said.

According to the new penalty tariff unveiled by the Goa government, while driving a light motor vehicle without a valid licence attracted a penalty of Rs. 500, under the new tariff structure the fine has been increased to Rs. 1,500.

Fine for speeding has also been increased from Rs. 400 to Rs. 1,500. Those using mobile phones while driving light motor vehicles will be fined Rs. 3,000 for the first offence and Rs. 10,000 for subsequent offences, while previously the fine was limited to Rs. 500.

Repeated offences under the new central law would also result in suspension of the driver's licence for three months. According to Goa's Transport Minister Mauvin Godinho, those who did not violate traffic norms had no reason to worry about the high penalties.

Godinho also said that the state government was only implementing a central law and the intention was not to harass the common man.

"Because we have the interest of the common man in mind, we have kept the fines at minimum. Where the range of penalties is between Rs. 1000 to Rs. 10000, we have kept it at Rs. 1000 only. We are not trying to pinch the pockets of the people to earn revenue. We are only following the central legislation, implementation of which was delayed in GOA due to the pandemic," Godinho said.

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida, (U.P.)
Website : www.noidaauthorityonline.com

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited from eligible contractors/firms for the following jobs against which bids can be uploaded and same shall be opened / downloaded as per schedule mentioned. The details and conditions of all tenders are available on Noida Authority's official website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com & <https://etender.up.nic.in> Please ensure to see these website for any changes/ amendments & corrigendum etc.

S.N.	Job No.	Name of Work	Amount
1.	01/SPE/PE (PH-I)/E-T/2021-22	Supply of Insecticides used for Vectro Control in Noida (Part-I)	87,00,000.00
2.	03/SPE/PE (PH-I)/E-T/2021-22	Supply of Insecticides used for Vectro Control in Noida (Part-III)	33,39,900.00

The above tenders can be uploaded by dated 22.04.2021 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-Qualification shall be opened / downloaded on dated 23.04.2021 at 11.00 AM.
(S.C. Mishra)
Office : Sr. Project Engineer (Public Health), NOIDA
Sector-39
CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

Form No. INC-26
Advertisement to be Published in the Newspaper
[Pursuant to rule 30 the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014]

Before the Regional Director, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Northern Region Bench In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(6)(a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014

AND

In the matter of M/S EDUSPACE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED having its registered office at 15-D Pocket A, Vikaspuri Extn., New Delhi-110018 Petitioner

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Central Government under Section 13 of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the Special Resolution passed at the Extra-ordinary General Meeting held on 18.03.2021 to enable the company to change its registered office from "State of Delhi" to "State of Maharashtra".

Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the Registered Office of the company may deliver either on the MCA-21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint former cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, Northern Region, B-2 wing, 2nd Floor, Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex, New Delhi-110003, within fourteen days from the date of publication of this notice with a copy of such notice to the petitioner/Company at its registered office at the address mentioned below:

15-D POKKETA, VIKASPURI EXTN., NEW DELHI - 110018

By order of the Board
For EDUSPACE TECHNOLOGIES PRIVATE LIMITED
Manoj Kumar Agarwal
Director
Place: Delhi
Date: 07.04.2021
DIN: 00310180

Just deserts

Mukhtar Ansari's transfer to Banda Jail will hopefully put an emphatic end to his extrajudicial activities

gone are the days when the jails of Uttar Pradesh used to be his fiefdom — a secure place from where the don-turned-politician allegedly used to operate, giving instructions to his henchmen and sharpshooters. Mukhtar Ansari, whose name was enough to create terror in the minds of police officers, politicians, bureaucrats, businessmen and ordinary citizens alike, has finally been transferred from a Punjab jail to the Banda prison in UP. With it, his nearly two-year "honeymoon" in Punjab is over and, with the Yogi Adityanath Government in the State, he will likely have the taste of a prison in the real sense. Now, he will be treated as an ordinary prisoner and no VVIP guest — in whose service the entire district and jail administration remained in the earlier regimes. His audacity may be gauged from the revelations of a former Director General of Police who recently revealed that Mukhtar partitioned the barrack of Ghazipur jail and made a deluxe suite for himself. Further, a pond was dug inside the jail premises for culturing fish for the don. Even the District Magistrate came over to play badminton with the jailed guest. Those were the days when the don used to travel in a fleet of SUVs, all bearing the same registration number, "786". The don was allegedly close to at least two non-BJP Chief Ministers and enjoyed their patronage. However,

what put Mukhtar at odds with the BJP was the gruesome murder of party MLA Krishnanand Rai in 2005 when at least 500 rounds from Kalashnikov rifles targeted his vehicle.

At the time, Mukhtar was in jail but it is alleged that he masterminded the murder as Rai had defeated his brother Afzal Ansari in the Assembly elections. One of the accused, Munna Bajrangi — who was a dreaded criminal, contract killer and Ansari's right hand man — was killed in the Baghat Jail in UP in 2018. The UP Government is cracking down heavily on Mukhtar's properties, making him want to continue staying in the Punjab jail and the State repeatedly denied his custody to the UP Police on trivial grounds. Eventually, however, after the Supreme Court's order last month that a convict or undertrial who disobeys the law of the land cannot oppose his transfer from one prison to another, and the courts cannot be helpless bystanders when the rule of law is being challenged with impunity, his custody has finally been given to the UP Police. We can only hope that the criminal, who allegedly tried to strike a deal to procure a Light Machine Gun from an Army fugitive to assassinate his adversaries, sees no light in his prison cell. Further, he should be brought to justice for his crimes and a precedent must be set that nobody is above the law. We hope to see no more cavalcades of SUVs with criminals inside tinted glasses, running amok, brandishing all sorts of weapons and creating terror. It would serve the justice best if all such bhais are shown their real place — behind the bars or gallows.

PICTALK



Buses parked outside a hotel after fresh snowfall in Keylong, Himachal Pradesh

PTI

No respite

The newer strains of Coronavirus are killing, of course, but more deaths are due to our own insouciance

The word "tsunami" made it big in lingua franca in 2004, just as "COVID-19" did especially in the latter half of 2020. Unlike the tsunami, however, its killer surf is still far from receding; there are waves after waves of the killer virus mutating and begetting newer strains. The difficulty of the situation is that by the time the world's best virologists and scientists get down to pinning the blasted agent to relegate it to the oblivion, it deviously transforms itself. The number of active cases are growing breathtakingly by the hour and several States are performing particularly worse than the others, the eminent notables being Maharashtra, Delhi, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Since we mentioned Delhi in particular in these columns recently, let's revisit the Capital scene. Sure, the Aam Aadmi Party Government has taken some good, practical steps to counter the spread of the virus, including slapping a night curfew for whatever it's worth, the problem lies with the citizenry. Sure, the city Government has started servicing the population with inoculation around the clock, but what does it ultimately amount to?

The most basic instinct of any living being is survival but we, the humans, seem to have outgrown it in terms of taking precautions against COVID-19 as if the virus is our best friend. Taken in a larger, wider context, the same sick mentality appears to be prevailing across the nation, and across the borders too. The other countries are being mentioned because any epidemic, including locusts or any other natural jeopardy, doesn't respect geographical boundaries and is apt to punish anybody who disrespectfully comes into contact with it. But we apparently think that we have survived the virus outbreak so far, that we have made its acquaintance, that we have cracked the code to break its outreach and that it won't therefore afflict us, but we are wrong. The situation is getting exacerbated because of the newer strains that are mutating speedily and beguilingly, cheating the vaccines developed so far to treat the earlier, original virus. In no small degree, the peoples are to blame, too, since they haven't learnt any lesson from the situation in Manaus, situated on the banks of the Negro river in Brazil. The picturesque city found its way into notoriety when scientists proclaimed it to be the final warning for the whole world in terms of combating the Corona virus.



The journey from olive green to khadi



BHOPINDER SINGH

Veterans from the Armed Forces, who choose to test political waters, must shun any suggestion of institutional endorsement

The election to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly bears an interesting candidate, a veteran combatant and former Deputy Chief of Army Staff. Beyond his distinguished soldiering career, the said veteran has also tenured as a member of the National Security Advisory Board. Yet the news of his jumping into the electoral fray was met with mixed reactions, even amongst the "uniformed" fraternity. Beyond partisan considerations impacting views about his candidature, the historical unease between the political realm and the "apolitical" barracks underlies the awkward relationship and reactions.

What is indisputable is the principle that in a participative democracy, the institution of the Armed Forces must remain politically neutral, visibly and perceptibly. Equally, what is true is that the institution of the Armed Forces has witnessed a continuous slide and diminishment for all practical purposes (condescending invocations notwithstanding), and the same has been contributed by all political parties, without any exception. Put simply, the "voice" of the Armed Forces in the corridors of power, unlike other democracies such as the US or UK, remains supremely underrepresented. Therefore, the ability to participate and contribute meaningfully via the electoral route for the veterans cannot only be beneficial for his/her constituents, but also for the institution of the Armed Forces, various political parties, as also the nation at large. The challenge, however, would be to disallow the appropriation and subsuming of the Armed Forces and the definitive imagery of the 'Indian Soldier' under any partisan flag.

Many decorated US veterans have chosen to serve partisan governments, albeit under the tag of "independent". Legendary scholar-warrior Gen James Mattis (Retd), who served the Republican administration of Donald Trump as the Def-Sec, or even Democrat Joe Biden's Def-Sec, Gen Lloyd Austin (Retd),



chose to identify themselves as unpartisan "independent". However, in the Indian political context, nonpartisanship is not plausible in governance unless it pertains to an apolitical institutional appointment. This has led to political parties positing the veterans within their ranks to imply nationalistic and muscular credentials — these optics then transcend the parties to assume the mantle of defenders of the military and paint their rival parties as enfeebled, compromised or even "anti-nationalists".

Partisan preferences, biases and opinions asides, the veterans are a potential reservoir of trained constitutionalists and patriots (not simply "nationalists") who have led a life of unique experiences and perspectives. They come with a natural sense of service, discipline and duty that could be utilised towards betterment in a larger team, with other diversities of competence. There is no bipartisan "lobby" to champion the institutional urgencies and concerns collectively and, instead, it remains a domain of constant and petty upmanship. If anything, even more participation from



EVEN MORE PARTICIPATION FROM VETERANS SHOULD BE WELCOMED — AND IT SHOULD BE EMBEDDED IN ALL REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PARTIES, AND NOT BE THE EXCLUSIVE PRESERVE OF ANY ONE PARTY AS THAT STEERS THE 'INSTITUTION' TOWARDS THE DANGEROUS WATERS OF POLITICISATION

the veteran community should be welcomed — and it should be embedded in all regional and national parties, and not be the exclusive preserve of any one party, as that steers the "institution" towards the dangerous waters of politicisation.

Veterans in electoral fray must shun any suggestion of institutional endorsement, as hereinafter they must fight the electoral battle, in their personal and partisan capacity, and not on behalf of their earlier identity from an avowedly apolitical institution. Many illustrious veterans like BC Khanduri, Jaswant Singh and Rajesh Pilot earned their "political stripes" and accomplishments based on their individual work and contributions, and not owing to any jingoistic invocation or milking of emotions. Veterans must not allow themselves to be debased as only "show trophies" and, instead, demand their own space and relevance, basis their abilities. To imply an electoral contest to be below the dignity of a veteran to contest is also misplaced arrogance and uncharitable onto many more from other fields of similar accomplishment.

The real challenge for the veterans entering the political space is in walking the thin line of partisan anchorage with the full know that they will also be contextualised to their former identity, and therefore the need to maintain the conduct, restraint and rectitude that is often missing amongst the unhinged politicians. Widespread presence of veterans across the political aisles in various assemblies also augurs well for the long-term security of the nation, as the conversations, debates and policy arguments become enriched with more informed participants. Usually the guardrails of propriety and steadfastness in ensuring the "apolitical" moorings of the Armed Forces are best known to the veterans themselves — it is incumbent on the veterans venturing into politics to tread the path carefully and not fall for the bogey traps that are often laid by reckless politicians. The journey from olive green to khadi is never a straight line.

(The writer, a military veteran, is a former Lt Governor of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Puducherry. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO LOCKDOWN, PLEASE!

Sir — Just what was feared has happened; the Coronavirus cases across the country are up again. The efforts put in collectively have all but gone in vain. It seems like 2020 has still not left us. The cases are reaching record highs; curfews and partial lockdowns are being reinforced. This cannot be happening again! Alas, it is! We have been nothing short of reckless; the face masks have now become chin guards, social distancing has gone for a toss and people are partying as if it were 2019.

We are averaging at about five persons per 100 people — this number is absolutely a disgrace since we are the 'pharmacy of the world'. It's beyond ridiculous that we are exporting vaccines all over the world rather than vaccinating our people first. The Indian Medical Association (IMA) and the Chief Ministers of several States have appealed to the Central Government to open vaccination for all people above 18, but Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan resorted to saying that "the aim is not to administer the vaccine to those who want it, but to those who need it". The Health Secretary has no sense. A vaccine is not some beverage that people want; it is a tool that people need to protect themselves from ailments. The impact of the second wave is far more severe than the first, thanks to the variants.

Focusing on the global good is what makes us part of a larger society but that does not mean your own citizens are being sacrificed. We are still bearing the brunt of the previous lockdown and we certainly cannot afford another one.

Sean Young | New Delhi

NEED TO ERADICATE NAXALISM

Sir — The problem of Naxalism has been around for more than six decades. As many as 22 soldiers were recently killed in a Naxal attack in Chhattisgarh. The menace was not brought under control till it spread to 22 States. Although some control is now in place, the problem is not yet over. It may take a few more years to erad-

Corruption rules Maharashtra



It refers to the editorial 'Veil of morality' (April 7). I concur with the editorial view that it's too late for Anil Deshmukh to resign citing "moral grounds". Nobody will believe him and it appears more a compulsion rather than morality. We citizens are not fools. To make the matters worse, Deshmukh has moved the Supreme Court (SC) challenging the Bombay High Court's order directing a CBI preliminary probe into the extortion allegations levelled against him. In the petition filed in the Supreme Court, the NCP leader has questioned the conduct of former Mumbai Police Commissioner

Param Bir Singh, stating that his credentials cannot be taken at face value. The allegation made by Singh was more than serious as in an eight-page letter to CM Uddhav Thackeray, ex-Mumbai top cop has alleged that the now suspended and arrested API Sachin Vaze had been summoned by Deshmukh to his residence several times in the past few months setting a target of accumulating ₹100 crore a month from bars, restaurants and other establishments in Mumbai.

If the conduct of the Home Minister is such, it's not hard to imagine what the police officers must be doing. The eventual victim is common citizenry which finds itself hapless against the corrupt politicians and police officers. It seems that the Government led by Thackeray has compromised with corruption and the silence of the CM speaks volumes about his helplessness to rein the NCP and its leaders. However, such malpractices and corruption are against the spirit of democracy and are breach of people's trust in the Government.

Bal Govind | Noida

icate Naxalism. It can lead to the loss of many innocent lives. With that in mind, the help of the Air Force can be taken. That Naxals are getting arms from countries like China and Pakistan is an open secret. While it is clear that the Naxals cannot fight without weapons, it is also worth considering why efforts have not been made to ensure that Naxals do not get weapons from across the border. The Naxals are said to have used rocket launchers in the attack in Bijapur district. It is important to end the problem of Naxalism as a whole. For this, the Government should show will power and make efforts in the right direction and not just beat around the bush.

Nitesh Mandwariya | Neemuch

CK Subramaniam | Mumbai

REPO RATE REFLECTS HOPE

Sir — The six-member monetary policy committee (MPC), headed by RBI

SOUNDBITE

Our 14 lakh-dose stock is sufficient for only three days. Our weekly requirement is around 40 lakh doses to enable us to vaccinate up to 5,00,000 people.

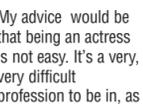


Maharashtra Health Minister
— Rajesh Tope



3.1 million out of 3.8 million doses did not come to Australia. That obviously had a very significant impact on the early rollout of the vaccination programme.

Australian Prime Minister
— Scott Morrison



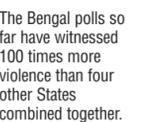
My advice would be that being an actress is not easy. It's a very, very difficult profession to be in, as there are a lot of expectations that the audience have.

Actor
— Rani Mukerji



We let Argentina come back into the game. When you play a team like them, we need to be consistent in all the quarters.

Indian hockey coach
— Graham Reid



The Bengal polls so far have witnessed 100 times more violence than four other States combined together.

BJP national general secretary
— BL Santhosh

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

STRATEGIES ARE CRITICAL IN POLLS

Having the right mix of strategies and hard work is as important as the popularity of a candidate



VIVEK SINGH BAGRI

lections are one of the most critical requisites to run any democracy. In India, every year several polls are conducted that decide the fate of the leaders contesting from various constituencies. India amounts to one-sixth of the world's electorate and the prospective candidates have to strategically approach the people with a plan that promises to uplift their lives and gives the hope of a better future. While being popular is complementary to winning elections in the present time, having the right mix of strategies and hard work is equally critical. Besides sharing well-drafted manifestos, candidates can speak on various pressing concerns such as environment, public education systems, women safety and so on.

Survey: Prior to starting any mission, it is recommended that the candidate conducts a thorough survey to get an idea of what he/she is stepping into. A survey reveals various aspects of the people living in the region — issues that the people of the constituency are facing. It also gives a deep understanding of which polling booth has the chances of performing in favour of the candidate.



Analysis: Once the candidate receives the results of the survey, he/she must compare the results with the previous elections to understand which direction is the party heading towards in a particular region. At this particular point, it is highly recommended to get a think-tank team onboard so that the candidate can spend more time among the people rather than focusing on making strategy.

Focus on Campaign: Campaigning is not only about advertising about oneself but it is also about advertising what the candidate will bring to the table once he/she gets elected. A thorough survey allows the experts to understand the mentality of the people, gives them the opportunity to find out ways to engage with them, chalk out a plan that will work for the candidate and help change the narrative for good. To enable this, the experts sketch out a marketing campaign that involves connecting with people not just physically but also digitally. Since the advent of the Coronavirus pandemic, the number of smartphone users has increased at the grassroots. This has opened up the doors to reaching out to people more personally — by engaging them in WhatsApp group conversations, social media campaigns and other forms of digital targeting based on demography, caste, sentiments and more. Besides digital marketing campaigns, the potential candidate must also plan field campaigns, digital rallies, door-to-door campaigns to reach maximum people.

Managing the sentiment of party workers: Any candidate who is contesting/fighting for the seat needs strong support of the people of the community, however, what he/she needs more is the continued support from the party workers. Hence, finding out the disgruntled party workers can help change the course of the whole drive.

Time of the preparation: It is highly recommended that the candidate must start the preparations at least a year in advance as it gives more time to gather information and use it to advantage. However, if one is starting later, then one must try to work on weaker polling areas/regions as there is a huge scope of improvement. Besides focusing on understanding the public sentiment, party workers' sentiment and issues of the region, the candidate must also focus on building their own brand that connects with the audience at a personal level.

(The writer is a political analyst and founder of Leadtech. The views expressed are personal.)

Is it a good idea to trust Pakistan this time?

The offer of peace by Pakistan is a sheer facade and it is just buying time to have a breather necessitated due to compelling military and economic reasons at home



ANIL GUPTA

The leaders of the Kashmir-centric political parties have gone overboard with the prospect of peace with our immediate neighbour and the global hub of jihadi terror — Pakistan. Backing Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa's call for Indo-Pak talks, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chief Mehbooba Mufti has said that the Indian Government should initiate talks with Islamabad.

"The Government should understand that the way to peace talks goes through the Kashmir issue. We cannot reach peace without resolving the Kashmir issue," said Mufti. Speaking in a similar vein, National Conference (NC) leader Omar Abdullah said, "We have always said that good relations between these two countries is not good only for Jammu and Kashmir but for the entire south Asia. It's good that both countries, instead of threatening each other, are talking."

The reasons for their optimism are well understood because their political survival for the decades in past had depended on the Pakistan bogey. There is a convergence in the views of Pakistani and Kashmiri leadership because soft-separatism and sub-nationalism has always been the ideological hall-mark of these political parties. But the moot point is can Pakistan be trusted?

It all began in the last week of February when the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the two Armies agreed to observe ceasefire on the Line of Control (LoC) in tune with the 2003 ceasefire agreement. Then the two statements, one after another, made during the first edition of the Islamabad Security Dialogue organised by Pakistan Security Division in collaboration with the country's leading think-tanks on March 17-18 expressing explicit desire for peace with India took many by surprise since the statements came from none other than the Prime Minister and the Chief of Army Staff of Pakistan.

Since then, endless debate has begun in the media in both the countries with each claiming peace to be compulsion of the other country. While the entire world knows the truth, it has become necessary for Pakistan to beat the drum to satisfy the hardliners. Pakistan, for long, has pushed aside geo-economics in favour of exploiting its geo-strategic location. Its dwindling economy and near-bankruptcy has forced its leadership, including military, albeit temporarily to resume trade with India which requires normalcy of relations which had been brought to its nadir by Pakistan post-abrogation of Article 370 by unilaterally withdrawing its High Commissioner and suspension of trade with India.

There was an inherent contradiction between the statements of the Imran Khan and Bajwa. While Khan made a little variation to his earlier stated position on March 5 while addressing the Solidarity Day function at Muzaffarabad, wherein he said that Pakistan would not talk to India till the restoration of Article 370 in Kashmir, he still stuck to resolution of Kashmir issue as a prerequisite for peace talks. "There is one issue that is stopping us [from improving relations] at this time. We will make our efforts but India must take the first step because after



THE PAKISTAN ARMY CONTINUES TO TREAT INDIA AS AN EXISTENTIAL THREAT. IN THE PAST, SIMILAR CEASEFIRE OFFERS AND PEACE OVERTURES HAD BEEN MADE BY THE PAKISTANI ARMY CHIEFS BUT THEY LASTED ONLY AS LONG AS PAKISTAN NEEDED THE PEACE. UNILATERAL ABROGATION AND VIOLATION OF THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS HAVE BEEN THE HALLMARK OF UNSTABLE INDO-PAK RELATIONS. THERE IS NOTHING DIFFERENT SO FAR TO TRUST PAKISTAN

The author is a Jammu-based political commentator, columnist, security and strategic analyst. The views expressed are personal.



August 5, till they take the first step, unfortunately we cannot move forward," Khan said. The next day, his Chief of Army Staff said, it was time for India and Pakistan to "bury the past and move forward" as he asserted that the peace between the two neighbours would help "unlock" the potential of South and Central Asia. He further added that the initiative has to come from India. Though he also referred to Kashmir, he did not mention it as a core issue and said that the peaceful resolution of the issue can lead to lasting peace in the region.

Immediately, after the February 25 ceasefire offer, India made it very clear that the onus lies with Pakistan to create a conducive atmosphere for any peace talks by reiterating its well-known stand of "terror and talks can't go together". Qamar Bajwa did make a reference to Pakistan changing its strategy from 'geopolitics' to 'geo-economics'. But Pakistan yet has to walk the talk. From all available inputs, there might have been a change in the thinking of the Pakistani brass and leadership but there are no visible indicators of any change in its "anti-India strategy."

On the occasion of the 70th National Day of Pakistan, PM Modi extended greetings to his counterpart Imran Khan and the people of Pakistan. He desired to have "cordial relations" with Pakistan but for it to happen, an

"environment of trust" that is "devoid of terror" is "imperative", said Modi in a letter addressed to Khan. Post-August 5, 2019, India has made its stand clear to the global community that the dispute regarding Kashmir is restricted to the illegal occupation of the two-third territory of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir referred to as Azad Kashmir and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) by India.

But from the response of Khan, it has become obvious that the offer of peace by Pakistan is a sheer facade and Pakistan is just buying time to have a breather necessitated due to compelling military and economic reasons at home. He has tried to put the ball back in India's court. Imran Khan has written to Modi for creating an "enabling environment" suited for a constructive and result-oriented dialogue to resolve outstanding issues between the two neighbours, including Jammu and Kashmir issue.

For a change, he has used the phrase "including Jammu & Kashmir" instead of it being the core issue and no headway can be made without its resolution first. Maybe Qamar Bajwa, for whom the breather is mandatory, has been able to prevail upon Khan so that he can continue unabatedly to refurbish and rebuild his Army and its assets on the LoC where it has received a thorough battering from the Indian Army.

Another thing to remember is that Pakistan has yet not given up terrorism as an instrument of State policy. Through its proxies, it continues to support terror in Kashmir and is reported to be spreading the network of sleeper cells in our hinterland and the North East. The Pakistan Army is feverishly using the ceasefire period to upgrade its infrastructure on the LoC, including establishing new forward posts as well as preparing gun areas and ammunition points/dumps in the villages in depth in the close vicinity of the LoC.

It is also learnt that the Pakistani Army with the help of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is constructing tunnels in the posts for living shelters and ammunition storage. It would also provide them added protection during a nuclear attack. In addition; it is also procuring from China modern military hardware as well as force multipliers like drones and surveillance systems.

Pakistani Army continues to treat India as an existential threat. In the past, similar ceasefire offers and peace overtures had been made by the Pakistani chiefs but they lasted only as long as Pakistan needed the peace. Unilateral abrogation and violation of the ceasefire agreements have been the hallmark of unstable Indo-Pak relations. There is nothing different so far to trust Pakistan.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

AYYAPPAN IS WITH THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED THE PEOPLE OF KERALA. THE LDF WILL COME BACK TO POWER IN KERALA. — KERALA CM PINARAYI VIJAYAN



NOT A SINGLE BELIEVER OF AYYAPPAN WILL TAKE HIS WORDS SERIOUSLY. THE PEOPLE WILL STAND WITH THE UDF. — CONGRESS LEADER OOMMEN CHANDY

Green hydrogen: Viable solution for future energy needs

A traditionally fossil fuel-driven nation such as Saudi Arabia has taken robust initiatives to adopt green hydrogen in its energy mix

In the relentless pursuit to power the world of tomorrow, humanity is tirelessly involved in its quest to discover newer fuels that are cleaner and more efficient. The express reduction of carbon content of the planet by the year 2050 is now the major focus area for nations across the globe. In order to achieve this, decarbonising the production of an element like hydrogen by giving rise to Green Hydrogen (GH) is one of the keys as this is currently responsible for more than 2 per cent of total global carbon dioxide emissions.

An efficiently harnessed GH can not only help get a grip on the current level of emissions, but also sustainably power the future. The global population is growing at a robust rate of 1.1 per cent per annum or increas-



KOTA SRIRAJ

The writer is an environmental journalist. The views expressed are personal.

ing by 83 million people every year, this intense human proliferation has had a tremendous impact on energy demand.

According to the latest estimates provided by the International Energy Agency (IEA), the increasing amount of watts required for a human will mean that global energy demand will increase by 25 per cent-30 per cent by 2040. For almost all economies surviving on fossil fuels, this would mean the generation of more carbon dioxide which, in turn, will exacerbate climate change. Unless clean fuels such as GH are developed as sustainable alternatives, the efforts to limit the rise in global warming to under 1.5°C would be untenable.

Hydrogen is a universal, light and very reactive fuel that is generated through the

chemical process of electrolysis. Electrolysis utilises electric current to separate the hydrogen from oxygen in water and if this electric current is obtained from renewable sources, GH is produced without emitting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The IEA studies show that this method of obtaining GH would save the 830 million tonnes of carbon dioxide that are emitted annually when this gas is produced using fossil fuels.

The scale of interest being generated for GH can be gauged by the fact that a traditionally fossil fuel driven nation such as Saudi Arabia has taken robust initiative to adopt GH in its energy mix. The kingpin of crude oil-producing nations in a surprisingly welcome development has announced the establishment of a mega



\$5 billion GH manufacturing unit, the size of Belgium, in the north-western part of the country. Saudi Arabia with average summer time temperatures hovering near 50°C is an energy guzzling nation that uses oil to fuel its power sector. A study by the Riyadh-based Joint Organisation's Data Initiative showed that every year the month of August peaks in

energy demand when the nation witnesses an average consumption of 7,26,000 barrels of oil a day for energy generation.

According to the British Petroleum PLC's latest *World Energy Report*, Saudi Arabia consumed 322 giga-joules per person in 2019, more than four times the global average and almost triple the figure for Europe. The nation apparently realises its dependence on fossil fuels and hence its strategic move towards GH. The BloombergNEF estimates that GH is expected to command a market value of nearly \$700 billion by 2050, but currently the cost of producing this energy is high.

According to the International Renewable Energy Agency (IREA), the per kilogram production

cost currently of GH is \$5. However, for nations such as Saudi with perpetual sunshine and vast unused land, the per kg production cost can be brought down to \$1.50 by 2030.

In addition to Saudi, other nations such as Germany, Spain, Britain and China have increased the pace of developing GH production capacity.

In times such as these, India needs to take immediate steps to catch up with the world and do its bit to decarbonise its economy by adopting GH in a large-scale manner. In November 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi proposed a comprehensive National Hydrogen Energy Mission and building on the same, this year's Budget saw a reference to the proposal for a Hydrogen Energy Mission

2021-22 to generate hydrogen from green power sources.

As the Government takes its own time to make progress, a beginning of sorts has already been made in the private sector recently with the collaboration between NASDAQ-listed Fusion Fuel Green and Chennai-based BGR Energy Systems. The tie-up will enable the use of proprietary technology of fusion fuel to generate hydrogen using solar energy and undertake GH energy projects across India.

GH is scalable, sustainable and storable and with India's target to generate 450 gigawatts of its energy from renewable sources by 2030, the nation needn't look any further as it provides the apt solution to achieve the same.

Blast in Red Sea slightly damages Iranian ship

Dubai: An Iranian ship believed to be a base for the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard and anchored for years in the Red Sea off Yemen has been attacked, Tehran acknowledged Wednesday.

Iran's Foreign Ministry confirmed the attack on the MV Saviz, suspected to have been carried out by Israel — though Tehran did not immediately blame its regional archenemy.

The assault came as Iran and world powers sat down in Vienna for the first talks about the US potentially rejoining the tattered deal aimed at curbing Iran's nuclear programme, showing events outside the negotiations could derail those efforts.

The ship's long presence in the region, repeatedly criticized by Saudi Arabia, has come as the West and United Nations experts say Iran has provided arms and support to Yemen's Houthi rebels in that country's yearslong war. Iran denies arming the Houthis, though components found in the rebels' weaponry link back to Tehran.

Iran previously described the Saviz as aiding in "anti-piracy" efforts in the Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb strait, a crucial chokepoint in international shipping. A statement attributed to Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh described the ship as a commercial vessel.

"Fortunately, no casualties were reported... And technical investigations are underway," Khatibzadeh said. "Our country will take all necessary measures through international authorities."

In an earlier state TV statement, an anchor cited a New York Times story, which quoted an anonymous US official telling the newspaper that Israel informed America it carried out an attack Tuesday morning on the vessel. Israeli officials declined to comment about the assault when reached by The Associated Press, as did the Saviz's owner.

Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz, while refusing to

say if his country launched the attack, described Iran and its regional allies as a major threat.

"Israel must continue to defend itself," Gantz told journalists. "Any place we find an operational challenge and necessity, we will continue to act."

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani called the Vienna talks a "success" while speaking to his Cabinet on Wednesday.

"Today, one united statement is being heard that all sides of the nuclear deal have concluded that there is no better solution than the deal," he said.

Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency, believed to be close to the Guard, reported

that a limpet mine planted on Saviz's hull caused the blast.

A limpet mine is a type of naval mine that is attached to the side of a ship, usually by a diver. It later explodes, and can significantly damage a vessel. Iran did not blame anyone for the attack and said Iranian officials likely would offer more information in the coming days.

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Myanmar forces attack town that resisted with arms

Yangon: Security forces on Wednesday stormed a town in northwestern Myanmar where some residents had used homemade hunting rifles to resist the military's February seizure of power, killing at least seven civilians and injuring many others, local news reports said.

The online news site Khonumthung Burmese said the attack on Kalay began before dawn. Videos on the site included what appeared to be sounds of rifle fire, high-caliber weapons and grenade explosions. Posts on social media said rocket-propelled grenades were used in the attack, but provided no evidence.

The news site said that in addition to the seven fatalities, many people were wounded and arrested in the town, also known as Kalemyo.

Over half the town's population are members of the Chin ethnic minority.

Security forces have killed at least 581 protesters and bystanders in their crackdown on protests against the Feb. 1 coup that ousted the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, according to the Assistance

Association for Political Prisoners, which monitors casualties and arrests.

Nearly all of the protests have been nonviolent, but as police and soldiers have increased their use of lethal force, some participants have armed themselves with homemade weapons such as gasoline bombs for self-defense. In Kalay, some residents took up simple but deadly homemade hunting rifles.

Myanmar Now, another online news site, reported Tuesday that protesters in Kalay had set up neighborhood strongholds and inflicted casualties on the security forces.

It said that on March 28, when the army sought to attack Kalay, protesters in the town and nearby villages put up fierce resistance.

The attack took place a day after the junta's forces killed more than 110 people around the country, the highest single-day death toll since the coup.

The report said protesters "more than held their own. Four of them died that night, but so did an equal number of the enemy, including an officer or two."

Hong Kong activists plead guilty to joining democracy rally

Hong Kong: Three veteran Hong Kong pro-democracy activists, including well-known publisher Jimmy Lai, have pleaded guilty to taking part in an unauthorised rally that resulted in violence between police and participants, media reported on Wednesday.

Lai is already being held in custody on other charges related to his outspoken opposition to China's crackdown on civil liberties in the former British colony.

Last Thursday, seven of Hong Kong's leading pro-democracy advocates, including Lai and an 82-year-old veteran of the movement, were convicted for organising and participating in a march during massive anti-government protests in 2019 that triggered Beijing's crackdown.

While Lai will be returned to

prison, the other six were fined. Lai, ex-legislator Lee Cheuk-yan and Yeng Sum, a former chairman of the Democratic Party, are believed to be negotiating bail terms. The charges carry prison terms of up to five years.

The court was shown footage of the three at the Aug. 31, 2019, event that led to clashes in various parts of the cramped city of more than 7 million that was hovering at the edge of chaos at the time.

Official Radio Television Hong Kong quoted Lee as telling the court that although he pleaded guilty, "I haven't done anything wrong. History will absolve me."

The governments in Hong Kong and Beijing have been relentlessly pursuing opposition figures in order to exert greater control over the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

'All US adults will be eligible for vax by April 19'

Washington: US President Joe Biden announced that all American adults will be eligible for a Covid-19 vaccine by April 19. On Tuesday, Biden announced the new timetable after his visit to a vaccination site in Alexandria, Virginia, moving up his original deadline of May 1 by nearly two weeks, reports Xinhua news agency.

Biden said that 150 million doses have been administered within his first 75 days in office, in line with a stated goal of 200 million shots by his 100th day in office.

He urged Americans to continue to practice pandemic safety measures, saying the country is not "at the finish line yet" and may experience more "disease and misery" before July 4.

A few weeks ago, Biden called on states, tribes and territories to make all American

adults eligible for vaccination no later than May 1.

Biden has stressed that while the country is now vaccinating a record number of Americans, the battle against Covid-19 is "far from won" as cases are once again on the rise.

The country has witnessed a resurgence in 27 states, including cases from new and emerging Covid-19 variants.

Currently, the seven-day average of new cases is about

61,000 a day, a 10 per cent increase over the previous period, according to the latest data of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Biden has called on every Governor, Mayor and local leader to maintain, and in some cases reinstate, mask mandates.

Some states have lifted requirements for masks and allowed businesses to reopen to full capacity against warnings

from public health experts.

Highly contagious variants are rapidly spreading in the US, threatening to outpace the vaccination efforts.

Last week, CDC Director Rochelle Walensky said the B.1.1.7, the variant first identified in Britain, is starting to become the predominant strain in many regions of the US, accounting for 26 per cent of Covid-19 cases circulating across the nation.

UK Deliveroo riders strike over pay, gig economy

LONDON

Riders for the app-based meal delivery platform

Deliveroo held a strike in London Wednesday over pay and working conditions, part of a broader backlash against one

of the U.K.'s biggest gig economy companies.

Scooter and bicycle delivery riders waving flags and red

smoke flares rode through the streets of Central London. Socially distanced protests were also planned in York, Reading, Sheffield and Wolverhampton to demand fair pay, safety protections and basic workers' rights.

The Independent Workers' Union of Great Britain, which represents migrant and gig workers, expected hundreds of riders to take part.

Deliveroo said that "this small self-appointed union does not represent the vast majority of riders who tell us they value the total flexibility they enjoy." Rider surveys found most are happy with the company and flexibility was their priority, the company said in a statement.

The strike coincides with the first day of unconditional share trading for Deliveroo, which went public last week in a multibillion pound stock offering that was one of Europe's most hotly anticipated IPOs this year.

Rwanda's Kagame welcomes French 'truth' about genocide

Kigali (Rwanda): President Paul Kagame of Rwanda on Wednesday praised a new French report documenting France's role in the 1994 genocide as "a good thing," welcoming efforts in Paris to "move forward with a good understanding of what happened" 27 years after the massacres that shocked the world.

Kagame spoke before dignitaries and others in an arena in the capital, Kigali, at the start of a week during which the central African country will commemorate the genocide.

"We welcome this (report)," Kagame said, asserting that his government's interpretation of the commission's findings is that then-French leader Francois Mitterrand knew that a genocide against the Tutsis was being planned by their allies in Rwanda" but continued "supporting them because he believed this was necessary for France's geopolitical position."

Rwandans "were just pawns in geopolitical games," charged Kagame.

This is the first time Rwanda's president is commenting on France's genocide report that was released in March.

Pak Army chief discusses defence, regional security with Russian FM Lavrov

Islamabad: Pakistan Army Chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa said on Wednesday that Islamabad has no hostility towards any country and will work for regional cooperation, as he held talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on matters of mutual interest, including enhanced defence ties, regional security, and the Afghan peace process.

Lavrov, who arrived here on Tuesday from India, met

Bajwa on the last day of his two-day visit at the headquarters of the Pakistan Army in Rawalpindi, according to a statement by the Army.

"We have no hostile designs towards any country and will keep on working towards a cooperative regional framework based on sovereign equality and mutual progress," Bajwa said.

He said Pakistan values its relationship with Russia and

reproaches the desire for enhanced bilateral military cooperation, the statement said.

General Bajwa also offered support for efforts to bring peace in Afghanistan.

"Pakistan welcomes all initiatives which can bring peace and stability in Afghanistan as the whole region will benefit from it," he said.

TEMPORARY DIVERSION / REGULATION OF TRAINS DUE TO MAINTENANCE WORK

In order to further enhance the safety standards, Railway shall undertake construction work of Limited Height Subway (LHS) in lieu of L-Xing No. 255 & 256 between Baruaachak - Gonda and L-Xing No. 235 between Swami Narayan Chhaphia - Maskanwa in Lucknow Division. For these works, a Traffic Block of 06.00 hrs. shall be taken on 08.04.2021 in Baruaachak - Gonda Section, and two Traffic Blocks of 08.00 hrs. and 06.00 hrs. on 15.04.2021 in Baruaachak - Gonda and Swami Narayan Chhaphia - Maskanwa Sections respectively. Consequently, the following trains will be Diverted/Regulated as under:

DIVERSION OF TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Diverted Route	Date(s) (From originating strn.)	
02512 Kochuveli - Gorakhpur Raptisagar Express Special	Via Gonda - Barhni - Gorakhpur instead of Gonda - Basti - Gorakhpur	06.04.2021 & 13.04.2021	
02542 Lokmanya Tilak (T) - Gorakhpur Special	Via Gonda - Barhni - Gorakhpur instead of Gonda - Basti - Gorakhpur	07.04.2021 & 14.04.2021	
05118 Mathura Jn. - Chhapra Express Special	Via Gonda - Barhni - Gorakhpur instead of Gonda - Basti - Gorakhpur	07.04.2021 & 14.04.2021	
05212 Amritsar Jn. - Darbhanga Jn. Special	Via Gorakhpur - Barhni - Gonda instead of Gorakhpur - Basti - Gonda	14.04.2021	
02569 Darbhanga Jn. - New Delhi Clone Special	Via Gorakhpur - Barhni - Gonda instead of Gorakhpur - Basti - Gonda	15.04.2021	

REGULATION OF TRAINS			
Train No. & Name	Regulated	Dates (From originating strn.)	
05212 Amritsar Jn. - Darbhanga Jn. Special	150 Minutes en route	08.04.2021	
02598 C Shivaji Maharaj (T)-Gorakhpur Antodaya Ex.	130 Minutes en route	15.04.2021	
00969 Laxmibai Nagar - New Guwahati Parcel Spl.	25 Minutes en route	15.04.2021	
02563 Sahara Jn. - New Delhi Clone Special	75 Minutes en route	15.04.2021	

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may 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 detailed Time-Table and stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

NORTHERN RAILWAY
visit us at : www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Egyptian delegation in Gaza for talks with Hamas

IANS ■ GAZA

A high-ranking Egyptian security delegation arrived in the Gaza Strip to hold talks with the leaders of the Islamic Hamas movement, Palestinian sources said.

The delegation members on Tuesday crossed into the besieged Gaza Strip through the Erez crossing between the coastal enclave and Israel, Xinhua news agency quoted the sources as saying. The sources declined to reveal more details on the purpose of the sudden visit, saying that the schedule was unclear. General Ahmed Abdel Khaleq, chief of the Palestinian affairs in the Egyptian General Intelligence Service, heads the delegation, according to the sources.

Japanese prefecture declares medical emergency

Tokyo: Japan's Osaka on Wednesday declared a state of medical emergency as hospitals in the western prefecture were overwhelmed by the Covid-19 surge.

Osaka reported 878 new infections on Wednesday, the largest daily spike since the outset of the outbreak, reports dpa news agency.

The surge is attributed to more contagious variants of the coronavirus, Osaka Governor Hirofumi Yoshimura said.

Chile postpones landmark elections

Santiago: Chilean President Sebastian Pinera announced that this week's landmark polls to elect for councillors, mayors and, for the first time ever, regional governors and members of a constituent assembly to draft a new Constitution, will be postponed till May 15-16 due to a Covid-19 resurgence.

In a speech at the government palace, Pinera on Tuesday said the decision prioritises the health of both the country's democracy and its people, reports Xinhua news agency.

"Given the strong re-emergence of the coronavirus pandemic and the appearance of new variants, not only in Chile, but throughout the world, and considering the high demand our health system is facing it did not seem prudent or advisable to hold elections this coming weekend," he said.

The much-anticipated elections are set to elect 155 constituents to draw up a new Constitution as a political solution to the social unrest that erupted in October 2019.

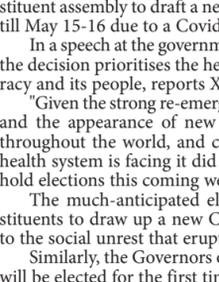
Similarly, the Governors of each of the country's 16 regions will be elected for the first time.

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Aditya Chhatwani is owner of Plot No. 49/2, area measuring 71.5 sq. yds, out of Killa No.54/15, Situated in the block of J. Estn., Laxmi Nagar, Village Khurji Khas, Ilaga Shahdara, New Delhi, Vice a Sale Deed dated 21.08.2020, Registration No. 2855, executed by Mr. Shesh Narayan Shukla & Mr. Rajesh Narayan Shukla legal heirs of late Mrs. Urmila Devi, has lost/misplaced SMO certificate stating legal heirs of late Mrs. Urmila Devi, All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out solely inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, West Nager, N. Delhi-16
Ph. 911-4112527-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Name: Ramkali, D/o: Sh. Ratan Singh, R/o: Kachhi Basti, Ranjini Nagar, Bharatpur, Rajasthan**, has been missing/kidnapped since **29.03.2021** from Platform No.1, New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi, in the area of P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 15A dated 30.03.2021**, has been registered at P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi. The description of the kidnapped girl is as under: **Age: 22 years, Sex: Female, Height: 5', Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Strong, ID Mark: A tattoo mark of "MAYA RATAN SINGH" on right hand, Wearing: Pink colour salwar-suit, black colour dupatta and slipper in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail: hd-cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639 **P.S. New Delhi Railway Station, Delhi**
DP/104/RLY/2021 **SHO Ph.: 011- 23744073, 8750871305**

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	HARYANA VISHWAKARMA SKILL UNIVERSITY	SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF ADVANCE ELECTRICAL LAB (PACKAGE - A TO PACKAGE -E) (SEPARATE TENDER FOR EACH PACKAGE)	07.04.2021 18.05.2021	02% OF TENDER VALUE	www.svsu.ac.in	0124-2746800 register@svsu.ac.in
2	J.C. BOSE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, YMCA, FBD.	RENOVATION/UPGRADATION OF MICROWAVE AND COMMUNICATION-2 WORKSHOP/LAB, AND CONSTRUCTION OF WALKING TRACK ALL-AROUND PLAY GROUND IN THE UNIVERSITY.	08.04.2021 28.04.2021	27.72 LACS	www.jcboseust.ac.in https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416374943 eeymca1@gmail.com
3	HAFED	PUBLICATION OF SHORT TERM E-TENDER NOTICE FOR ENGAGEMENT OF EXPERIENCED LABOUR CONTRACTOR FIRMS/ COMPANIES/COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES FOR LOADING/UNLOADING AND HANDLING OF FOOD GRAINS BELONGING TO FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA IN GODDOWNS AND CAP STORAGE.	07.04.2021 12.04.2021	AS MENTIONED IN THE TENDER DOCUMENTS	www.hafed.gov.in	0172-2590520-26 hafed@hry.nic.in
4	HAFED	SHORT TERM E-TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF RAW / PACKING MATERIAL REQUIRED FOR HAFED CATTLE FEED PLANT, ROHTAK & S. KHERA.	06.04.2021 19.04.2021	20.49 LACS	www.hafed.gov.in	0172290520 hafed@hry.nic.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in

RO NO.2491

RBI status quo on policy supportive of eco growth: Experts

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

RBI's decision to keep repo rate unchanged for the fifth time in a row is in line with the economic need to encourage growth, financial market players and experts said on Wednesday.

In its first monetary policy announcement for this fiscal, the Reserve Bank underlined the need to support the economy given the current situation amidst resurgence of Covid cases in the country.

The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously decided to continue with the accommodative stance as long as necessary to sustain growth on a durable basis and continue to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the economy.

Rajiv Sabharwal, MD and CEO, Tata Capital, said: "The growth forecasts appear to be encouraging and the economic activity momentum will be further consolidated."

The apex bank has projected the Indian economy to grow at 10.5 per cent in the current fiscal year.

Measures announced are intended to lower borrowing costs, ease financial conditions and keep liquidity supportive for credit offtake, Sabharwal said adding that he announced ebbed worries of any early liquidity withdrawal.

On the inflation front, the RBI has projected the retail inflation to be in the range of 4.4-5.2 per cent during the course of this year, with the first half falling in the upper band of over 5 per cent.

Rumki Majumdar, Economist, Deloitte India, said, "As expected, the RBI has kept the policy rates stable and will likely continue holding the rates steady as there are significant risks to inflation moving up. Intermittent supply-side disruptions and gradual demand revival will keep the pressure on prices."

The RBI has pushed more

liquidity to MFIs to encourage lending to rural and SME sectors, Majumdar said, adding that credit growth has to take off rapidly to ensure sustainable capital expenditure and spending across all segments of the economy.

To nurture the still nascent growth impulses, the RBI has felt necessary to support continued flow of credit to the real economy. Thus, liquidity support of Rs 50,000 crore for fresh lending during 2021-22 will be provided to All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs).

The RBI will also provide Rs 25,000 crore to NABARD, Rs 10,000 crore to NHB and Rs 15,000 crore to SIDBI. Notably, special refinance facilities of Rs 75,000 crore were provided to AIFIs during April-August 2020.

Additionally, the RBI also announced Rs 1 lakh crore government securities (G-sec) acquisition programme, named G-SAP 1.0, under which it will commit upfront to a specific amount of open market

purchases of G-sec as a liquidity measure.

The announcement of the much awaited GSAP 1.0 should go a long way in quelling the bond market's anxieties regarding the size of the central and state government borrowing programme for FY2022, N Sivaraman, MD and Group CEO, ICRA Ltd, said.

"Regardless, global factors such as US treasury yields and commodity prices, and the impact of the latter on domestic inflation, will influence yields. We expect the 10 year G-sec yield to range between 6.05 and 6.15 per cent in the next two months," he said.

The ratings firm also suggested that the CPI inflation forecast round 5 per cent in FY22 seems to be ruling out rate cuts, unless economic activity is severely disrupted by the ongoing wave of Covid-19.

Anshuman Panwar, Co-Founder, Credits Solutions, said the first bi-monthly policy for FY22 has been on

expected lines with the RBI keeping repo rate unchanged but re-affirming its commitment to maintain an accommodative stance.

"Further, RBI will now set up a committee for a comprehensive review of Asset Reconstruction Companies ARCs. I think this is a much needed step to harness the full potential of ARCs so that the key issue of sizeable bad loans is addressed in a sustained and holistic manner. This is also crucial as economic growth revives and banks need the confidence to lend aggressively," he added.

Dhruv Agarwal, Group CEO, Housing.Com, Makaan.Com and PropTiger.Com, said the RBI move to hold key rates unchanged is on expected line and hoped the regulator will carefully monitor how the COVID-19 situation evolves and change its stance later in the financial year as the need arises.

Supporting growth paramount for RBI now: Shaktikanta Das

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Stating that "growth is of paramount importance now", the Reserve Bank on Wednesday said it will do whatever it takes to sustain the fledgling recovery by ensuring ample and assured liquidity and cheaper funds to oil the wheels of the economy.

Addressing the media online, Governor Shaktikanta Das said "as of now growth is of paramount importance... And we'll do whatever it takes to help sustain the recovery."

But he was quick to add that "inflation targeting is also important."

"More importantly, the government reiterating the plus-minus 2 per cent of 4 per cent inflation targeting gives us

enough policy space to support growth as there are more downside risks to growth on the horizon now than in recent past which make growth...Of paramount importance," he added.

The central bank chose to retain its last forecast of 10.5 per cent GDP growth this fiscal, saying it is "too early to revise its own forecast done two months ago as we have just entered the new fiscal year."

Asked why the thrust was on growth despite pencilling in an upward inflation trajectory (5.2 per cent for the first half and 4.4 per cent for the second), and offering an indefinite period of accommodative policy stance, Das said, "We'll continue to be accommodative till growth becomes sustainable and we will do whatever it takes to achieve that."

Das continued to explain that "inflation is already in a well-entrenched and well-anchored framework now and so is inflation expectation, that's also well-anchored. This is very clear from the fact that the government notification has reiterated the plus-minus 2 per cent of 4 per cent inflation targeting."

"This framework gives RBI enough leeway gives enough policy tools to manage any extraordinary situations like the current pandemic."

"For the time being and at the current juncture, growth is of paramount importance, while of course keeping in mind inflation targeting is also important. After all, the primary goal of the monetary policy is to maintain a certain level of inflation," he said.

RBI puts in place G-SAP for orderly functioning of G-Sec market

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday said it is putting in place a secondary market government securities acquisition programme or G-SAP 1.0 for this financial to enable an orderly evolution of the yield curve. RBI said the endeavour through the programme will be to ensure congenial financial conditions for the recovery to gain traction.

Under the programme, which will be for 2021-22, RBI will commit "upfront to a specific amount of open market purchases of government securities with a view to enabling a stable and orderly evolution of the yield curve amidst comfortable liquidity conditions," Governor Shaktikanta Das said while announcing the monetary policy. For the first quarter of the financial year 2021-22, RBI will conduct a G-SAP of Rs 1 lakh crore, and the first purchase of government securities for an aggregate amount of Rs 25,000 crore will be conducted on April 15, Das said.

The benchmark 10-year bond, which traded at 5.93 per cent (on an average) during April 2020-January 2021,

spiked to 6.25 per cent on March 10, 2021 before coming down again. In sync with G-Sec yields, corporate bond yields also hardened across issuers and rating categories in the recent period. During the post policy conference, Das told reporters that G-SAP is different from the regular Open Market Operations (OMOs) that RBI conducts.

"It has a distinct character, in the sense that for the first time we are giving out a particular quantum of bond purchase in the secondary market. Within this particular quarter, we will be suitably depending on the evolving situation and will be announcing auctions from time to time," he said.

Deputy Governor Michael Patra said that with this, RBI, for the first time, is committing its balance sheet to the conduct of monetary policy.

"When we are unchanged on the policy rate, we need an instrument to run monetary policy. In the past, all our actions were to move the interest rates up and down and ensure that proper transmission happens across the market spectrum. This time we are being more explicit.

Sensex rallies 460 pts on RBI boost; bank stocks lead charge

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices darted up on Wednesday, propelled by banking, auto and IT stocks, after the RBI expected left interest rates unchanged and maintained its accommodative stance to boost growth amid a resurgence in coronavirus cases.

The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 460.37 points or 0.94 per cent to finish at 49,661.76. The broader NSE Nifty advanced 135.55 points or 0.92 per cent to 14,819.05.

Interest-rate sensitive bank and auto stocks led the gainers' chart on the Sensex.

SBI was the top performer, spurring 2.25 per cent, followed by ICICI Bank, Nestle India, IndusInd Bank, M&M, Bajaj Auto, Bharti Airtel and Maruti.

IT counters also posted robust gains after the rupee tanked 105 paise against the US dollar. A weak rupee is seen as a positive for export-oriented Indian IT firms.

On the other hand, Titan, NTPC and HUL were the laggards, shedding up to 0.78 per cent.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday kept key interest rates unchanged at

All sectoral indices ended on a positive note, with BSE auto, bankex, telecom, metal, basic materials and finance indices surging up to 1.69 per cent.

record lows while pledging to buy Rs 1 lakh crore of government bonds this quarter to cap borrowing costs in a bid to support an economy facing a resurgence of the pandemic.

In the first monetary policy of the 2021-22 fiscal, the central bank stuck to its accommodative stance amid concerns of rising infections that could derail the nascent economic recovery.

The central bank also retained the economic growth projection for the current financial year at 10.5 per cent.

"In line with expectations, RBI has maintained status quo on policy rates and reassured the financial markets on its commitment to retain accommodative policy stance till the prospects of sustained economic recovery is secured," said Gaurav Dua, SVP, Head - Capital Market Strategy, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

Even on liquidity front the signals are dovish, he said, adding the bond market has reacted positively with the 10-year bond yield easing by 6-8 bps during the day.

"The easing of yield curves and commitment of keeping interest rate low with ample liquidity are positive for the equity markets too. The consistency and continuity in the monetary policy stance is welcome and will cheer up market sentiments," he noted.

All sectoral indices ended on a positive note, with BSE auto, bankex, telecom, metal, basic materials and finance indices surging up to 1.69 per cent.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices rallied up to 1.30 per cent.

World stocks hovered near record highs, boosted by IMF's projections of robust global growth this year.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Seoul and Tokyo closed in the green, while Shanghai and Hong Kong nursed losses.

Stock exchanges in Europe were largely trading with gains in mid-session deals.

₹ suffers worst one-day fall in 20 mths, crashes 105p against \$

Mumbai: The Indian rupee nosedived 105 paise to mark its biggest single-session drop in over 20 months against the US currency on Wednesday amid concerns over surging Covid-19 cases in the country.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the Indian currency settled at 74.47 to the US dollar - marking its lowest level since November 13 last year. The rupee also logged its worst single-day fall since August 5, 2019. The local unit opened at 73.52 against the greenback and traded in the range of 73.52 to 74.50 during the session on Wednesday.

"The Indian rupee depreciated amid concern over rising Covid-19 cases in India and lockdown restriction in some states. Furthermore, Reserve bank of India kept its repo rate unchanged for the 5th consecutive policy meeting and maintained accommodative stance," said Saif Mukadam, Research Analyst, Sharekhan by BNP Paribas.

The central bank kept its key policy repo rate unchanged at 4 per cent, but warned that the recent surge in Covid-19 infections has created uncertainty over economic growth recovery. PTI

Gold rallies ₹587; silver jumps ₹682

New Delhi: Gold rallied by Rs 587 to Rs 45,768 per 10 gram in the national capex on Wednesday amid rupee depreciation, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 45,181 per 10 gram. In tan-

dem with a rally in gold, silver also jumped Rs 682 to Rs 65,468 per kilogram from Rs 64,786 per kilogram in the previous trade.

The Indian rupee slumped 24 paise to 73.66 against the US dollar in opening trade on Wednesday. PTI

IN BRIEF

NASSCOM COE-BACKED STARTUP DRONAMAPS EMPOWERED NDRF DURING UTTARAKHAND FLOODS

New Delhi: Ushering in a hi-tech transformation to India's rescue framework, NASSCOM CoE incubated DronaMaps is powering command and control centers to support search & rescue missions with NDRF and other national and international bodies during natural calamities. Ayushi Mishra, COO & Co-Founder, DronaMaps, said a geospatial analysis of the Chamoli glacier from high resolution satellite maps revealed that between the dates of 5th February and 10th February 2021, the area lost 135 sqkm of snow cover. Sudhanshu Mittal, head, CoE Urogram & Director, Technical Solutions, NASSCOM CoE, said that drone technology has critical role to play in multiple areas.

SAYAJI SHINDE BRAND AMBASSADOR OF ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE AUTO i CARE

Mumbai: "Gaadi Bandh, No Fikar!" is the new campaign featuring veteran actor Sayaji Shinde to help address car breakdowns, finding a car mechanic in 20 mins and assist stranded vehicles anywhere, anytime through the mobile app AUTO i CARE, a leading player in providing 24x7 emergency roadside assistance. Sagar Joshi, founder AUTO i CARE, said, "With a massive footprint in the cities as well as national highways, AUTO i CARE becomes India's largest network of technology enabled road-assistance service affiliated with 55000+ local garages and mechanics which cover 2,28,000 kms on 238 highways and reaching out to nearly 1100 cities and towns in India." PTI

IMF lifts China's GDP to 8.4%, but Gopinath says growth unbalanced

Beijing: The IMF has increased China's GDP projection to 8.4 per cent for this year, a 10-year high, but its chief economist Gita Gopinath cautioned that economic growth in the world's second largest economy was unbalanced and private consumption has not recovered as fast as expected following the coronavirus crisis.

The International Monetary Fund also urged China to address its high corporate debt levels resulting from the easy monetary policy put in place during the coronavirus pandemic.

In its latest issue of the World Economic Outlook released in Washington, the IMF put China's 2021 growth at 8.4 per cent, up 0.3 percentage points from its January

forecast. Its projection for China's economic expansion for 2022 remains unchanged at 5.6 per cent, official media here reported on Wednesday.

The IMF forecast for China, though much higher compared to other major economies including the US, Germany and France, is lower than 12.5 per cent growth rate for India in 2021. The 8.4 per cent projection is above six per cent target fixed by the Chinese government for this year.

China's economy, which was the first to be hit by the coronavirus pandemic and early to recover from its impact, grew 2.3 per cent in 2020, registering the lowest annual growth rate in 45 years. PTI

Pak to approach IMF for 2nd bailout package: Report

PTI ■ ISLAMABAD

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has indicated that he would approach the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a second relief package to help the cash-strapped government reach the needy people amid the coronavirus pandemic, according to a media report.

Khan's remarks came during his address at the launch of the United Nations Development Programme's Pakistan National Human Development Report on Inequality on Tuesday, Dawn newspaper reported.

UJVN Limited
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephone: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866
Website: www.ujvn.com

R.O. No.: 265
Corrigendum Date: 07.04.2021

In reference to e-tender No. 28 & 30/EE(Patthri)/2020-21 invited by this office, it is to inform that corrigendum has been uploaded on our website. Please quote your bids accordingly. For further details kindly log on to <https://uktenders.gov.in>. All other terms & conditions of tender shall remain unchanged.

Executive Engineer (E&M)

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.	1 (A, B)/21-22/WE
Name of Work with its location	a) Supply of potable water through tankers in the section of DEN/E-1 b) Outsourcing for cleaning and sanitation work of DRM office complex, DAO Building, RTS-Control office, Microwave office and other offices including NDCR & CPRO building for one years in s/o SSE/WIT Camp under ADEN/E-1
Approx. Cost of work	a) Rs. 15000273.36 b) Rs. 16385812.06
Completion period of work	a) 12 Months b) 343 days
Date & Time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Opening date of tender on 30.04.2021 at 15:00 hrs.
Website particular notice board location complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

128-W/269/OET/21-22/WE/NIT-01 (A,B)/21-22 Dated : 06.04.2021 783/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRRailwaysIndia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

T.N.No.183 & Issue Corrigendum (Through e-procurement)

The following tenders and corrigendum notice have been floated through e-Procurement Tenderers are requested to visit the web-site www.ireps.gov.in and submit their offers. If may be noted that the offers submitted manually or on paper will not be accepted. Offers sent by post are not entertained:

Tender No.: TMC2020041
Description: Procurement of Consumables for the use of HOBGM.
Due Date: 15.04.2021

Issue of Corrigendum No.1 to the following Tender (e-Procurement Tender Notice).

Tender No.: TMC2020031, TMC2020032
Description: New items are added. Due date of tender opening is postponed.

For complete details please refer www.ireps.gov.in

Dy.Chief Engineer/TM/ A0341
HQ/Secunderabad

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at <https://www.ireps.gov.in> or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Sonvir Kumar is owner of Eastern Portion of Property bearing no. 203, Area measuring 131.2 sq. yds., out of total area measuring 262.5 sq. yds., out of Kharsa Majra, No.17, Killa No. 18/13, situated in the area of Village Sahapur Tehsil & Dist: Faridkot, Haryana. Vide a Sale Deed dated 03.03.2016, Registration No. 19992, has lost/implicated SMC certificate stating legal heirs of late. Mrs. Binia Devi and her Death Certificate. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
206, 1st Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph. 911-4115297-28 kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
General public is hereby informed that my client Shri Kamal Kishore S/o Shri Harichand Permanent Resident of H. No.2219, Raja Park, Delhi, presently residing at H. No.3158A, Mahendra Park, Rani Bagh, Delhi, have severed all his relations with his son namely DIVYANSHU NANDWANI, Aged about 24 Years, working as software engineer with a concern, who not only manhandled my client and father of my client and also due to his disrespectful conduct, quarrelsome attitude and disobeying misbehavior towards my client and his old father and my client has disowned him from all his moveable's and immovable properties and any other dealing with him in future in any manner whatsoever shall do so at their own risk and consequences. And my client shall not be responsible for any such acts, deeds and things which is done by above said son namely DIVYANSHU NANDWANI.

Madhu Sudan Bhayana (Advocate)
Chamber No. 927, Lawyers Chamber, Rohini Courts Complex, Rohini, Delhi-110085.

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Jasmin Kurian W/o Mr. Paul George Giri & (2) Mr. Paul George Giri S/o Jacob Paul who are purchasing the FIRST FLOOR-FRONT SIDE (WITHOUT ROOF TERRACE RIGHTS), BUILT ON PROPERTY BEARING MCD NO.39, LAND AREA MEASURING 50 SQ. YDS., OUT OF KHARSA NO.1168/1110, KHEWAT/KHATUNI NO.38237, VILLAGE KILKARI, SITUATED AT HARI NAGAR ASHRAM NEW DELHI-110014 from Mr. Tarvinder Singh Marwah S/o Late Lal Singh and same to be financed by Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited. The Sale Deed dated 20.05.1999 Executed by Mr. Dalip Singh & Anrs in favour of Mrs. Shoran Kaur W/o Late Mr. Sardar Lal Singh is lost/implicated if any Person having any type of claim/rightful interest over the said property, may inform in writing at the address mentioned below within 7 days, about his objections, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masji Mothi, Opp. Uday Park, South Extn.II, New Delhi-49, Contact #9111-40045316

PARADIP PORT TRUST
e-TENDER CALL NOTICE
Name of the work: "Annual Maintenance Contract of Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) for a period of Three Years". Estimated Cost: Rs. 75,60,000/- . Last date & time of submission: 15.30 hours on Dt. 28.04.2021. Date & time for opening of Technical Bid: 15.30 hours on Dt. 30.04.2021. For details, please log on to the website: <http://eprocure.gov.in/procure/app>.

Harbour Master
PPT/PR/02/21-22 Date :07.04.2021

CSB Bank
Shalimar Bagh Branch located at SE-30, Singapur Road, Shalimar Bagh New Delhi-110088

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE
CSB Bank Limited, Shalimar Bagh branch had granted gold loan against pledge of gold ornaments to the below mentioned borrowers. Notice has been issued to him/hem demanding repayment of the amount with interest and charges thereon. Since they have failed to repay the balance outstanding in the respective accounts, we are constrained to recover the amount by sale of gold ornaments in public auction and if the auction does not fetch required amount, bank will proceed with the sale by private treaties/contract. Bank reserves its right to change/extend the date and venue of auction without assigning any reason.

Sl No	Name of borrower	Gross Weight (grams)	Overdue Gold Loan Amount (in Rs)	Amount (in Rs)	Balance as on 05.04.2021 (in Rs)
1	Chhabhi Lal	256.48	0493-04240749-000001	30297	945297

The auction will be conducted at the premises of CSB Bank Limited, Shalimar Bagh branch premises situated at SE-30, Singapur Road, Shalimar Bagh New Delhi-110088 on 15 April 2021 at 03:00 pm. Interested parties may contact the Branch Manager in the above address. Participants should attend the auction along with copy of Pan Card, passport size photo, valid identity proof and address proof on the date of auction.

Place: New Delhi Date : 06.April.2021 Branch Manager

WESTERN RAILWAY
VARIOUS CIVIL ENGINEERING WORKS
Divisional Railway Manager (WA), Western Railway, 6th floor, Engg. Deptt. Mumbai Central Mumbai - 400 008, invites E-Tender as per details given as follows:

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No. & Date	Work and location	Approx. cost of work in ₹
1	BCT/21-22/03 dtd.05-04-2021	Virar-Joravasan Sec :- Replacement of corroded steel girders of span upto 9.15m by Precast RCC/PPC slabs on Br No. 88,90,91,161,164 Total Span = 40 under Sr.DEN/North in connection	₹ 7,98,80,027.69
2	BCT/21-22/04 dtd.05-04-2021	CCG-VR Section. Replacement of corroded steel girders of span upto 9.15m precast RCC/PPC Slabs for Br No. 20, 43, 46, 61 Total Span = 40.	₹ 8,00,45,054.39
3	BCT/21-22/05 dtd.05-04-2021	CCG-VR Section. Replacement of corroded steel girders of span upto 9.15m upto 12.20m by precast RCC/PPC Slabs for Bridge No.5,31 & 40 Total Span = 13 Nos.	₹ 3,49,05,101.76

Note: Executive : Sr. No : 1 Sr. DEN (N) BCT Sr. No : 2 & 3 DEN (South) BCT Date & Time of submission: On 30-04-2021 till 15.00 hrs. Date & Time of Opening: On 30-04-2021 till 15.30 hrs.
Regarding detailed nature of work, containing cost of tender document (non refundable), EMD, eligibility, criteria, similar nature of work, detailed tender conditions please visit www.ireps.gov.in Manual offers will not be considered. 0005

Like us on : [Facebook.com/WesternRly](https://www.facebook.com/WesternRly) Follow us on : [Twitter.com/WesternRly](https://twitter.com/WesternRly)

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one male namely **Ambika Dass, S/o Sh. Kamli Dass, R/o N-14/477, Munsiram Colony, Delhi, Age: 60 years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Thin, Face: Long, Hair: White, wearing White colour Shirt and Grey colour Lower, has been missing from his house since 01.04.2021. In this regard a DD No. 59A, dated 02.04.2021 has been registered at P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi.**

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

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S. Mukherjee Nagar, Delhi
DP/747/NW/2021 Ph.: 011-27654675, 8750870234

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one person namely **Yogesh Juneja & Nanu S/o Ashwani Kumar R/o M-54, Manju Tila, Delhi** has been missing from PS Civil Lines, Delhi since 07.11.2020 at 02.00 PM with Scooty No DL 8SCU8189 In this regard a DD No. 39A dated 08.10.2020 has been lodged at PS, Civil Lines, Delhi. The description of missing person is as under:

Name : Yogesh Juneja @ Nanu, Father's Name : Ashwani Kumar, Age : 26 years, Height : 5'10", Face : Long, Complexion : Fair, Built : Medium, Wearing : Light Blue T-Shirt, Dark Blue Lower, Red Colour Chappal in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph. : 011-23014046 (Direct)
23015229 & 23015218 Extn.-210
Fax: 011-23011334
DP/707/N/2020

SHO
P.S., Civil Lines, Delhi
Ph. : 011-23815444, 8750870127



Bollywood
 '11th Hour' is a
 boardroom drama,
 and it's my first
 show on OTT.
 —Tamannaah Bhatia

TRENDBLAZER

ANUSHKA LIFTS VIRAT KOHLI

Actor **ANUSHKA SHARMA** posted a fun video on Wednesday that captures her lifting her husband, cricketer Virat Kohli. The couple had welcomed their first child, daughter Vamika, earlier this year, and the actor returned to work recently. In Wednesday's video, Anushka can be seen lifting Virat, who exclaims: "O teri!" She does it once and Virat asks her to try again. She tells him to not help and lift himself up, and she does it again! "Did I do it?" she captioned the post.

fairtalk

ADARSH GOURAV



I'm an actor who is simply trying to equip himself with whatever it may take to work with a certain list of filmmakers that I have. I can't wait to collaborate with them in the future. To do that, I cannot have language act as a barrier. I also have been learning to play the guitar. It's something I've wanted to do since I'm no longer a part of a band.

dailytalk

SUNNY SINGH



'As a child, I had watched *Ramayana*. I didn't focus much on the characters but the story was enough to keep me invested. Now that I'm going to essay the character of Laxman, I have re-watched the whole *Ramayana* with complete focus on Laxman, which helped me learn about his mannerisms, body language and a lot more.'

EVA NEVER THROWS HER SHOES AWAY

Actor **EVA LONGORIA** has revealed that she never gets rid of any of her shoes. She has a special closet for her old pairs. "With my shoes I never say, 'Thank you and goodbye.' I'm like, thank you and I move it to the other closet. I can't part, and my husband goes, 'Why do you keep all these shoes?' I'm like, 'I'm a shoe collector' as if I'm an art collector," she said. She adds that she shares a special relationship with her Louboutins as they have grown together.



A SOPHISTICATED TAKE

Here are a few trending cottagecore decor ideas which will give your home a major makeover without too much effort



Do you miss the hearth, the bond and the relaxing feeling you get when you visit your grandparents' farmhouse? This respite and solace from the hustle bustle of country living is the best gift we can give ourselves while staying safe amid the comfort of home. And what better than the coziest decor trend — cottagecore? Here is a sophisticated take on the trending cottagecore décor to bring in its aesthetic without a major home makeover.

AVOCADO GREEN

While opting for a floral theme it might sound like a conventional idea, but modern spaces look charming with a little touch of fresh block prints or flower patterns. So, how about doodling your walls on chalk grade laminates? One can try Avocado Green laminate decor by NewMika from the house of Greenlam Industries Ltd that ensures durability, elegance and perfect continuity in chalk marks for hassle free and readable writing. Throw some



pastels shades and place some succulents over your wooden rack inspired from mother nature. Lastly, remember to keep the space uncluttered and every element soft yet

enveloping for a perfect cottagecore decor.

ATLANTIS

Your bedroom is an important

place where you start and unwind your days. Here, adding cottagecore to your room can help soothe stress, inspire your creativity that will allow you to feel calmer. Start with

placing vintage quilts and bright geometric patterned cushions to your bedding. For a contrasting theme, here go for a light-coloured laminate. It will effortlessly balance the other colours in your room. Further, having a ceramic flower vase and a rocking armchair gives your bedroom a chic and close to nature feel.

SHEER CONCRETE

Highly finished laminate walls, with a tinge of pattern, contrasting against an old stone wall adds a character and urban flavour to your living area. To give your space a sprinkle of timeless charm, try out hot neutral shades of gray to complement your brick wall. For instance, you can try Sheer Concrete laminate décor from Greenlam. It makes vibrant colours stand out while providing resistance to scratch, steam, crack, heat and surface wear. With embroidered cushions and rug, give an edge to your otherwise plain sofa set. Finish this look with macramé wall hangings as it will add an oomph to your walls.



'We will conserve only what we love'

DIA MIRZA addresses the raging Uttarakhand fires and says that we need to be more aware of the reasons that cause such devastation

Actor, producer, UNEP Goodwill Ambassador and UN Secretary-General's Advocate for SDGs, Dia Mirza has frequently tweeted, blogged and talked about environmental degradation. She has repeatedly tried to bring attention to the fact that climate change is a clear and present reality as is evident from the frequent natural disasters unfolding around the world ranging from flash floods, raging fires, snow storms and extreme weather changes.

Closer home, Uttarakhand is currently battling 40 active forest fires with brave workers trying to curtail their spread. The fire has already impacted forests across the Garhwal and Kumaon regions and is said to be the worst since 2016.

Pained by the devastation, Dia tweeted, "Since January this year, there have been 983 incidents of forest fire in the state affecting 1,292 hectares of land. #Uttarakhand battles 40 active forest fires, IAF sends help. Hope the state receives adequate help."

She added, "I once quoted Baba Dioum, a Senegalese forestry engineer in a blog, the gist of which was that in the end we will conserve only what we love. Do we love our forests enough to protect them is a question that niggles at me every time such devastation takes place in Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand is the birthplace of the Ganga and its forests feed many important river systems that are the life source of millions. This is a state with 71 per cent forest cover, over 743 bird species (this represents about 60 per cent of India's avian biodiversity), 102 mammals, 72 species of reptiles and 439

species of butterflies. This is also the home of an estimated 340 wild tigers in two nature parks, Rajaji National Park and Corbett. So, this state literally cradles our future. And to see it go up in flames like this repeatedly is very painful because I have been to these forests and have absorbed their serenity and majesty."

She also reminded that every single fire poses a massive risk to flora and fauna, fire fighters and forest rangers, one of whom told her of the role that the timber mafia often plays in causing such tragedies. She said, "There is also neglect and a lack of awareness that precipitates the intensity of such a crisis. Our natural resource management needs to be better. As every person I spoke to in Uttarakhand told me that we need to be more aware of the reasons that cause deforestation, pollution of the rivers, illegal mining and soil erosion. We have to understand how interdependent the human existence and mother nature are. Rivers will dry up if the forests that feed them are not protected. It will take the active participation of public and private partnership to secure our natural resources."

The actor has been routinely talking about environmental issues that don't get mainstreamed and is also producing a series of short films that will expand the significance of the 17 SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) with compelling narratives. These films aim to highlight the importance of inter-linked SDG goals which have been designed to achieve a more sustainable future and a healthier planet for all.

Office of the Chief Engineer
JAMMU AND KASHMIR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
 Regd. Office: - SLDC Building Gladni Grid Complex PDD Complex Bemina Srinagar
 Email: - cejkpc@gmail.com

ADVERTISEMENT FOR HIRING THE SERVICES OF COMPANY SECRETARY
 The Jammu & Kashmir Power Corporation Limited is intending to hire the services of one Company Secretary for the Corporation on contractual basis. The interested candidates shall submit their resume supported with allied documents related to the field. The candidates need to submit the soft copies of relevant documents to the official e-mail: cejkpc@gmail.com along with submission of self attested copies of the document to the office of Chief Engineer (Training), JKPC, SLDC Building, Gladni Grid Complex, Narwal Jammu-180006 within a period of seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.

ELIGIBILITY
 1. The candidate should be a member of Institute of Company Secretaries of India.
 2. The candidate should have excellent writing skills, oral communications, Inter-personal skills, ability, initiatives & commitment to quality system.
 3. The candidate should have completed graduation from any recognised University with minimum 80% marks.
 4. The candidate should have minimum secretarial experience of at least two (02) years and should be fully acquainted with Rules to having experiences of working in reputed companies or Financial Institutions.
 5. The age of candidate should not exceed "55" years as on 01.01.2021.

DURATION OF CONTRACT
 The duration of the contract shall remain for a period of one (1) year or less in the first instance which can terminate with a prior notice of one month. The arrangement shall not confer any right to the candidate to claim permanent absorption in the Corporation.

JOB PROFILE
 The Company Secretary shall have to carry out the matters related to the:-
 • Corporation secretarial assignments such as Report writing, preparation of Annual reports, Directors report preparation etc.
 • Compliance of various statutory, regulatory and other reporting
 • Drafting notes of meeting Agendas, Drafting Minutes of meetings & all other documents.
 • Organising Board of Directors Meetings, Keeping the Board Members updated about their legal responsibilities, Corporate Governance.
 • Sale custody of the corporation seal.
 • Representation of the Corporation in the legal and services matter.
 • Attending various meetings of the Corporation with Board of Directors.
 • Authenticate the proceedings of meetings and other documents.

NOTE:
 The candidates are advised not to furnish any particulars or information, which cannot be supported by documentary evidence while applying. In case the information / documents at any stage are not found within the eligibility criteria for the job applied for, his/her candidature will stand cancelled ab-initio. Moreover, the Corporation shall not be responsible for any postal delay / loss in transit in submission of documents within the specified time.
 In addition to above, the applications received through Chairman, Jammu / Srinagar Chapter of ICSI in reference to this office communication No. - CEJKPC/IT-2/1123-25 dated-05.11.2020 will also be considered for the interview for appointment to the said post subject to condition that they submit the self attested hard copies of the relevant documents to office of undersigned at Jammu within a period of seven (07) days from the date of publication of this notice.
 The JKPC, has every right to modify / cancel the above notification at any stage without assigning any reason. Mere submission of application shall not confer any right to the candidate to claim his/her selection for the post.

No. DIP/J-154/P-21 Dated - 07-04-2021
 Sd/- Technical Officer with Chief Engineer



T-Series has joined the membership of Indian Performing Right Society Limited (IPRS). It brings a vast music library of more than 2,00,000 titles, including 50,000 plus music videos, comprising of more than 15,000 hours of music including musical compositions and lyrics across more than fifteen Indian languages.

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Punam D/o Sh. Ajay Shah R/o Jhuggi No. 809, Sanjay Camp, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi**. Age 16 year, Height 5'2", Complexion fair, Face round, Built normal **ID Mark: A mole on chin**, has been kidnapped by unknown person from Sanjay Camp, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi since 08.03.2021 at about 09:00 am. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out this girl, but no clue has come to light so far. In this regard a case FIR No. 16/21 dated 09.03.2021 U/s 363 IPC has been registered at PS Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about this missing/kidnapped girl may kindly inform to the undersigned at the address or telephone nos. given below.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
 Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: 011-23011334
 Ph: 011-23014046, 23015218
 DP/246/NDD/2021

SHO
PS Chanakyapuri, New Delhi
 Ph. 011-23012003, 08750870523

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that a female namely **Poonam, W/o: Badlu, R/o: Unknown, was found on 18.09.2020 at Near Rain Basera Geeta Ghat, Civil Lines, Delhi**. In this regard DD No. 22A dated 18.09.2020 has been registered at P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi. Mantle Disturb. She is kept in Delhi Female Nari Niketan Nirmla Chaya, Hari Nagar, Delhi. The description of found female is as under:

Name: Poonam, Age: 40 Years (Approx) , Height: 5'3", Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Built: Normal, Wearing: Golden colour Suit, Pajama and lady chappal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this found female please inform P.S. Civil Lines, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
 Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
 SHO
 Police Station, Civil Lines, Delhi
 Ph: 011-23810633, 23815444
 DP/591/N/2020

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: **Amit Kumar S/o Sh. Ram Jiwan R/o Mange Ka Makan, Village, Dallupura, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 15.02.2021. In this regard DD No. 51A dated 19.03.2021, U/s 363 IPC has been lodged at PS New Ashok Nagar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.

Amit Kumar

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, Age: 25 years, Height: 5'10" ft., Complexion: Fair, Built: Thin, Face: Round, Wearing: Blue colour Shirt and Blue Jeans Pant and Blue Sports Shoes in feet.

Any person is having information or clue about this missing/kidnapped person may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO
P.S. New Ashok Nagar, Delhi
 E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in PH.: 011-22610839, 22610954
 Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641 Mob. No.: 8750870631
 Fax No.: 011-24368639 DP/431/ED/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a man namely **Subhash S/o Paras R/o H. No.: 61, Laxmanpuri Paharganj, Delhi** has been missing since 04.01.2021 from Psychiatric Department, Dr. RML Hospital, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 48A dated 23.02.2021 has been lodged at PS, North Avenue, New Delhi and information uploaded on ZIPNET No. : MNN21NA002.

The description of missing man is as under:

Name: Subhash, Father's Name : Paras, Age : Around 27 years, Height : 5', Built : Medium, Face : Long, Complexion : Shallow, Hair : Black, Wearing: White Printed Shirt, Blue Jeans and Slipper in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
 e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: 011-24368639
 Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO
P.S., North Avenue, New Delhi
 Ph. : 011-23093040, 23093294
 DP/234/NDD/21

A UNIQUE VISION FOR DEVELOPMENT

ARUN VIR SINGH holds the dual charge of CEO of Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA) and Noida International Airport Limited (NIAL). In a conversation with SAIMI SATTAR, he elaborates on plans that would make the area stand out in the country

What will be the effects of the coming up of Jewar airport?

The coming up of an airport has a multiplier effect on any economy. Studies show that wherever airports have come up, the economy has increased seven-fold. And that is the kind of effect we hope that it will have on the area. Moreover, in conjunction with projects like the Film City which has been planned, it will mean that people coming down to shoot will have easy access.

What about the connectivity to the airport, which is naturally important for it to take off?

The multi modal connectivity of Jewar Airport is unique in the country. The Film City on the Expressway is 3.5 km away from the Airport. So, anyone flying in can go directly to the Film City.

The Eastern Peripheral passes close to the Expressway and the Film City. We are developing it as an interchange. Through this, one can go towards Haryana and Meerut. Moreover, the Eastern Peripheral is connected to the Western Peripheral, so Sohna, Manesar too will be connected with it. Additionally, cities like Faridabad too can be connected with by developing a corridor.

The National High Speed Rail Corporation which is developing the corridor for the bullet train from New Delhi to Varanasi has designated Jewar as a stop. It will take 21 minutes from New Delhi Station to reach Jewar. A detailed project report (DPR) for the same is being prepared.

There is also the Mumbai Delhi Expressway that will

pass through Ballabgarh which is 31 km from Jewar. Of this, seven km lies in UP and 34 km in Haryana. There will be another Expressway spread over these 31 km which will connect the Mumbai Delhi Expressway to Jewar and Film City.

So, the airport will be well-connected in the north, west and east directions. Except for the South, the three directions will have roads leading to it.

The Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) is at a distance of 16 km and the area from the Film City to Chola will be developed as a logistic and warehousing. So air, road and rail cargo comes together here. The biggest advantage of connecting the Chola rail head is that it will be developed centrally.

There are plans to have metro connectivity as well and the approval has been given to DMRC for the same.

What will be the infrastructure like at the airport?

The initial plan was to have two runways at the Noida Greenfield International Airport being developed by Swiss-developer Zurich International Airport AG. Now the plan is to have five runways. The remaining three runways will have Maintenance, Repair, Operations (MRO) and field runways making it the second biggest airport in NCR and the world's fourth or fifth biggest airport. Without an MRO, the aircraft have to go to Boeing or Airbus Headquarters for repair or maintenance. This will be a big step.

What are the schemes to ensure connectivity within YEIDA especially for the pop-

ulation working within the areas?

The bus service, 'Yamuna Sarthi', connects Noida, Greater Noida and the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority (YEIDA). This enables people who work in the area. These buses run on designated routes at half hour intervals. Additionally, the central government agency, Indian Port Rail and Ropeway Corporation Limited (IPRCL) has been roped in to work on a ₹300 crore pod taxi project that will



connect the Film City with the airport.

The residential schemes are aimed at which sections of the society?

We are primarily targeting the lower and lower middle class who will live and work here. Majority of the plots are of small sizes which are 60, 90 and 120 sqm.

What about the infrastructure to cater to the area? Things like electricity and water.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

We have plans to supply the area with Ganga water just like in Noida. There will be more than adequate supply of electricity. There is a proposed 765 KVA Substation of 3000 MW capacity as well as a commissioned 220kV substation at Jewar which is expected to be upgraded by UPPTCL to 400kV capacity.

The Film City is an important part of the plan. How is it different from the one already there in Noida?

It is close to the Jewar Airport and has been planned over 1,000 acres of land.

The earlier one in Noida was very small. In Mumbai, there were already big studios so this did not become important as there was no infrastructure. Till the time there is an integrated infrastructure people would have to go to different places for camera, visual effects etc. You need to have everything at one place. That is the reason this Film City, which is also being called Infotainment city, would have everything in one place.

Incidentally, 70 per cent of the technicians in the Hindi or even the South Indian film industries are from Uttar Pradesh. Since this Film City would have these facilities, it would be a source of employment generation too.

What are the parks that have already been developed at YEIDA?

We have made an MSME Park, an Apparel Park, a Handicraft Park and Toys Park where national and international companies have set up operations. This will generate employment opportunities for at least 3.5 lakh people.

Photo: Pankaj Kumar

SHAKE THE WORLD IN A GENTLE WAY

Rajasthan Chief Minister ASHOK GEHLOT says that Mahatma Gandhi's life is a treasure of principles that can guide us in every field

The life values of our father of the nation — Mahatma Gandhi — are inspiring for the whole world. He did what he said, 'In a gentle way, you can shake the world', said Rajasthan Chief Minister, Ashok Gehlot. "His life is such a treasure of principles that can guide us in every field. His views have become more relevant in today's circumstances. Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Governance and Social Sciences would be established in the state with the aim of assimilating the teachings of *Bapu* and playing a role in governance and social work," said he.

Gehlot was addressing the unveiling ceremony of Gandhi's statue at Hanumangarh District Electorate campus and state level conference of Gandhian and voluntary organisations through a video conference. He thanked the sculptor Ramkishan Adig for the construction of the statue.

"The younger generation should play a constructive role in society by adopting Gandhi's life values, principles and ideals. For this, innovations like creating Youth Peace Army can be done in the state so that more and more youth can be associated with his philosophy of life. It is our endeavour that Rajasthan should become the focal point of the country in the direction of furthering *Bapu's* ideas and philosophy of life," shared he.

Gehlot said that peace and non-violence cell has been formed in the state to bring Gandhi's life philosophy to the people. "Mahatma Gandhi Institute and Mahatma Gandhi Darshan Museum in Jaipur's Central Park will be built," he shared.

The Minister of Autonomous Governance, Shanti Dhariwal, said that many countries gained independence, inspired by Gandhi's non-violent movement. "The programmes being organised by the state government on the 450th birth anniversary of Gandhi will inspire the younger generation to assimilate his teachings," added he.

Art and Culture Minister, Dr BD Kalla, said, "Gandhi's historic Dandi March inspires the achievement of goals through the non-violent movement. The millennials should follow his path given and give a new direction to the society."

The Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment, Rajendra Yadav, shared, "Some events have historical significance for the nation. The Dandi March is one such incident, which paved the way for non-violently raising voice against injustice."



The President of Gandhi Peace Foundation and prominent Gandhian thinker, Kumar Prashant, added, "When Gandhi did Dandi March, he inspired many on the way to end social inequality and adopt *Khadi*."

"The main objective of Dandi Yatra was to establish a dialogue. Today we need to give direction to the youth because, I feel, there is no lack of energy and strength in them. They just need a right direction," said he.

Former Chairman of Rajasthan Public Service Commission, Dr BM Sharma, said that Gandhi's experiments like civil disobedience and *satyagraha* are as relevant today as they were during the freedom movement. "The whole world has accepted his principles," he added. The patron of the Bhagwan Mahavir Disabled Assistance Committee, Dr DR Mehta, emphasized, "Special efforts are needed to motivate the youth towards Gandhism. Better work can be done in this direction through social media."

Vinod Kumar, MLA attached to VC from Hanumangarh District Collectorate, City Council President Ganesh Raj Bansal and District Collector Zakir Hussain also addressed.

Principal Secretary, Social Justice and Empowerment, Gayatri Rathore, threw light on Gandhi's personality and work at the beginning of the seminar.

Sanjeev Kumar new Chairman of AAI

Sanjeev Kumar, an IAS officer of 1993 batch, Maharashtra Cadre, took over as Chairman of Airports Authority of India. Prior to this, Kumar was working as State Commissioner-GST, Government of Maharashtra.

With rich experience in the field of Infrastructure and Finance, Kumar has served in various ministries and departments of the Government of Maharashtra viz. Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Energy and Industries Department. He has worked as Joint CEO of Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) and has also been MD of Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation. He was the CMD of largest elec-



tricity distributor company of India, Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Ltd for more than four years and brought it to

profit for continuous four years. He implemented large number of public-friendly measures in MSEDCL, while improving operational and financial efficiency. Kumar has spent more than five years in State Goods Taxation Department in various capacities at the crucial time of introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) in 2005 and now in GST.

He also has experience of working in Government of India and has worked as Director in Ministry of Power for two years. In addition to this, Sanjeev Kumar worked in Ministry of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation as Joint Secretary & Mission Director for Housing for all projects. During his tenure as the Mission director for *Prime Minister Aawas Yojna* (PMAY), he designed

and launched the prestigious scheme in that capacity.

Kumar holds a degree in Electronics & Communication Engineering from University of Roorkee (now known as IIT Roorkee) and M Tech in Communication Engineering from IIT, Kanpur. He also holds a degree in Financial Management from Jamnalal Bajaj Institution of Management Studies, Mumbai University.

In his new assignment as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India, Kumar will lead efforts to achieve AAI's organisational goals of providing world-class airport infrastructure, top-of-the-line facilities and leading air navigation services in the world.



From April 12, 2021, Kolkata metro will run more number of services on weekdays on the North-South route for the convenience of its commuters. Daily 258 services will run instead of 252 between Kavi Subhash and Dum Dum. Between Kavi Subhash and Dakshineswar, 173 services (UP & DN) will run instead of 172. The timings of the first and the last service will remain unchanged. No tokens will be issued.



WRWVO president encourages women empowerment

Western Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (WRWVO) has always come forward to provide help and care to railwaymen and their families. It has continued to work relentlessly and has dedicated itself towards multifarious welfare activities. This organisation has always held aloft the banner of such benevolent gestures with Tanuja Kansal, the President of WRWVO, leading it from the forefront whole heartedly and with great devotion.

In continuation to this, recently, Kansal paid annual visits to the Divisional Units of WRWVO at Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Ahmedabad and Ratlam divisions to encourage various aspects of women empowerment and social welfare. She

interacted with the members of the divisional units and listened to their requirements for the benefit of women staff at these divisions.

During her visit to the Rajkot Division, she inaugurated a Children's Park at Kothi Compound Colony. Along with this, she also declared cash award of ₹50,000/- each for Rajkot, Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad divisions. It is worth mentioning that during her earlier visits to Vadodara and Mumbai Central divisions, cash award of ₹50,000/- each were also given. At Ratlam Division, Kansal donated 43 inch television screen for the Physiotherapy Room at the Divisional Hospital, Ratlam, which was inaugurated by her during her recent visit.

NFL achieves highest-ever fertiliser sale

NFL has once again recorded highest-ever total fertiliser sale of 59.36 lakh MT in 2020-21, beating its previous best of 57.04 lakh MT achieved during 2019-20. This includes sale of company's own Urea, imported Urea and other P&K fertilisers.

On the production front, the company produced 37.99 lakh MT of urea in its plants recording a capacity utilisation of 117.6 per cent despite severe restrictions of COVID-19 and other despatch related challenges



due to farmers' agitation in Punjab. In the plants, Panipat unit has set a new production record of Urea and Bentonite Sulphur and

Vijaipur Unit produced highest-ever volume of biofertilisers. Other than fertilisers, the company registered steep

growth in sale of seeds and agrochemicals. While sale of seeds grew by 35 per cent than CPLY at 1,85,550 quintal, the agrochemicals segment indicated a growth of 95 per cent than the previous year.

Even the sale of Bentonite Sulphur, produced at NFL's Panipat plant, has recorded huge growth of 150 per cent at 19,958 MT against 7,974 MT in CPLY. Also the industrial products segment performed exceedingly well during the year.

RITES, HRIDC sign contract for HORC

RITES Ltd, the transport infrastructure consultancy and engineering company, in consortium with SMEC International Pty Limited, signed a contract with Haryana Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation (HRIDC), a joint venture of Government of Haryana and Ministry of Railways, for providing general consultancy services for Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor (HORC) from Palwal to Sonapat via Sohna, Manesar and Kharkhoda. The contract value is about ₹72 crore.

The contract was signed by Piyush Kansal, Executive Director, Unban Infrastructure, RITES Ltd (on behalf of RITES-SMEC), and Narinder D Chumber, Director (Project & Planning), HRIDC, in the presence of Dinesh Chand Deshwal, IRSE, MD, HRIDC,



Rajeev Mehrotra, Chairman & Managing Director, RITES Ltd, VG Suresh Kumar, Director Projects, RITES Ltd, and Andrew McKune, Executive Director, SMEC.

The Haryana Orbital Rail Corridor (HORC) connecting Palwal to Sonapat via Sohna, Manesar and Kharkhoda is an electrified broad gauge double

railway line for passenger and freight traffic. About 122 route km corridor will provide seamless connectivity to Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) at Prithala station and to Indian Railways at Palwal, Patli, Sultanpur, Asaudha and Harsana Kalan stations. The project is being funded by Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

(AIIB) and shall be completed in five years.

The project would help decongest Delhi by diverting goods and passenger trains not originated/destined for Delhi. It would also be beneficial to industrial and logistic hubs of Kharkhoda, Manesar and Sohna and would help develop additional hubs in the region.

NBT organises essay writing competition

National Book Trust, India (NBT) has organised a pan-India essay writing competition for students on the occasion of *Prakash Parv* which marks the 400th birth anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadurji.

NBT is inviting students from various schools, colleges and educational institutions to write 500-700 word essays on any one of the topics: Teachings from the life of Guru Tegh Bahadurji and relevance of Guru Tegh Bahadurji's teachings in the current times.



The essay can be written in English or in any other Indian language. It has to be submitted by April 20, 2021. The best three entries from each institution shall be awarded. More details can be found on www.nbtindia.gov.in and NBT's social media pages.

GGSIU starts University Grievance Monitoring System

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University has started University Grievance Monitoring System. Its link is available on the university website.

It is an online web-enabled system developed by NIC to redress and monitoring public grievances. On the launch ceremony, the Vice Chancellor of the University, professor Mahesh Verma, said that it will be helpful in the improvement of the administrative as well as academic performance of the university.

The salient features of this portal are — maintenance of public grievances, prioritisation of grievances, forwarding and movement to multiple departments, tracking of grievance till redressal and online status check.

A training programme was also organised by NIC in this regard.

REAL PUT 3 PAST LIVERPOOL

Los Blancos makes English champions pay for defensive errors with 3-1 win in first leg of CL quarters

AFP ■ MADRID

Vinicius Junior scored twice as Real Madrid made Liverpool pay for more defensive errors on Tuesday, a 3-1 victory putting them in sight of the Champions League semi-finals.

Vinicius and Marco Asensio both profited in the first half after darting behind Liverpool's makeshift backline before a simple move from a throw-in gave Vinicius a simple finish in the second.

Mohamed Salah's strike shortly after the interval briefly made it a contest at Valdebebas, with an away goal certainly a significant consolation for Liverpool to take into the second leg at Anfield next week.

But without fans and with a miserable recent record at home, Jurgen Klopp will know his side have it all to do to avoid his team's season becoming solely about scraping into the Premier League's top four.

"We didn't play well enough, that's my first concern," said Klopp. "We didn't deserve to win tonight, but the good news is that there is another match."

"We are going to fight, 3-1 is not good, but we have a chance."

Except for two spells after



half-time and at the finish, when their opponents were holding on to what they had, Liverpool were overpowered by Real Madrid, whose only disappointment might be missing out on a clearer margin ahead of the return in eight days' time.

Before then, they go up against Barcelona on Saturday and this result, their fifth consecutive victory, should be another huge boost to morale going into what will be a crucial fixture in La Liga's title race.

"Nothing is close, nothing is won," Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane said. "We are alive in two competitions and we will keep fighting. We will start the second leg like it's 0-0 because it will be another very difficult game."

And next Wednesday

Comeback will be tough at empty Anfield: Klopp

AFP ■ MADRID

Jurgen Klopp says it will be tough for Liverpool to turn around their Champions League fortunes against Real Madrid at an empty Anfield despite their reputation as "comeback kings".

Liverpool famously overturned a 3-0 first-leg deficit against Barcelona in the 2019 semi-final, winning 4-0 at a frenzied Anfield on their way to being crowned European champions for a sixth time.

And next Wednesday

they must do something similar. An away goal gives them a lifeline but they will be playing behind closed doors due to coronavirus regulations.

"Of course, it is completely different," said Klopp. "If you want to have some emotional memories, then you watch the Barcelona game back and 80 percent of this game was the atmosphere in the stadium, so yes, we have to do it without that."

"But it is not that I sit here and think, 'Comebacks are our thing, we do it all the

time'. We did from time to time but we always had supporters in the stadium. 'We don't have that this time so I don't know if we can do it, but I can promise you we will give it a proper try.'"

The other factor counting against Klopp's men is their shocking recent home form, which has torpedoed their Premier League title defence.

Liverpool have not won at Anfield since mid-December, losing six of their eight matches at their former fortress and scoring a paltry two goals.

NUMBER GAME

4 Across all European competitions, no side have beaten Liverpool more often than Real Madrid (4, level with Benfica), with the Reds suffering defeat in each of their last four encounters with Los Blancos

2 Liverpool conceded twice in the first half of a Champions League knockout game for the first time since the 2005 final against AC Milan (3)

20 years 268 day — Only Kylian Mbappé in April 2017 (18 v Borussia Dortmund) has scored a Champions League brace in the quarter-finals or later at a younger age than Vinicius Junior (20y 268d)

3 Luka Modric is the oldest player (35y 209d) to assist in three consecutive Champions League games since Ryan Giggs for Manchester United in April 2011, who did so aged 37.

121 Since Mohamed Salah made his debut for Liverpool, only Cristiano Ronaldo (140), Lionel Messi (156) and Robert Lewandowski (177) have scored more goals than the Egyptian (121) across all competitions within the top five European leagues

788 Marco Reus is the first player to score a CL goal against Man City since Luis Diaz for Porto in October, ending the Citizens' run of 788 minutes without conceding in the competition



Man City get late advantage

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Pep Guardiola said Manchester City "felt the pressure" of expectancy in the Champions League as they needed Phil Foden's 90th minute winner to lead a slender 2-1 lead from the first leg of their quarter-final tie against Borussia Dortmund on Tuesday.

"We felt the pressure today, in this competition, at home, not knowing how we would react," said Guardiola. "It's better to win than draw but even at 1-1 we had 90 minutes to do it."

The sides will meet again in Germany on April 14 with the winners facing Bayern Munich or Paris Saint-Germain in the last four.

Dortmund are at serious risk of missing out on the Champions League next season after slipping seven points adrift of the top four in the Bundesliga.

However, the visitors started brightly until Emre Can gifted the ball away to Riyad Mahrez and City launched a ruthless counter-attack. De Bruyne, Foden and Mahrez exchanged passes before the

Belgian tapped home from close range.

City thought they had a great chance to double their advantage moments later when Rodrigo went down under Can's challenge inside the area and referee Ovidiu Hategan pointed to the penalty spot.

Hategan, though, rightly overturned his call on a VAR review in the first of a number of dubious decisions from the Romanian official.

His next big call ruled out a Dortmund goal when he adjudged Jude Bellingham to have fouled Ederson as he dispossessed the Brazilian and tapped into an empty net just before half-time.

This time VAR could not intervene as Hategan had blown before Bellingham rolled the ball home.

Erling Haaland was the focus of much of the pre-match hype with City one of a number of clubs interested in the

Norwegian wonder kid.

The 20-year-old had failed to score in just two of his previous 14 Champions League appearances, but he spurned his one big chance to net early in the second-half.

Haaland showed great strength and pace to outmuscle and outstrip Ruben Dias, but could not lift the ball over the advancing Ederson.

However, City were hit with a sucker punch as Haaland showed he is more than just a goalscorer.

His brilliant reverse ball released Marco Reus to fire beyond Ederson in what seemed a sting in the tale six minutes from time. But Dortmund could not hold out in the closing stages as City pushed for a winner.

De Bruyne was the creator again as his cross found Ilkay Gundogan at the back post and his cut-back was swept home by a relieved Foden.

We're 'fresh' and ready to fight for quadruple: Foden

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Phil Foden says Manchester City remain fresh and ready to fight for the quadruple after the scored late to give them the edge against Borussia Dortmund.

"It is really hard sometimes, mentally and in your legs as well, after coming back from internationals, but we have a lot of players in the squad that are fresh and ready to play," said 20-year-old midfielder Foden.

"The manager is rotating and so we are ready and I think as a team we are doing brilliantly. We are fighting for everything we can and are going to fight until the end."



Kevin De Bruyne has signed a two-year contract extension that will keep him at Manchester City until 2025

City have now won 27 of their past 28 games in all competitions and remain on course for a historic sweep of the Champions League, Premier League, FA Cup and League Cup.

SINGLES

AIYAJ DALAL SELECTED FOR OLY TRIALS

NEW DELHI: Commonwealth champion Aiyaj Dalal is selected for Taekwondo selection trials for Tokyo Olympics with 4.32 points in the 87+ kg category. The Sports Authority of India is going to conduct three-day selection trials at the SAI Lucknow regional center from April 15 to April 17 for the Taekwondo players.

DANGAL GAMES INTRODUCE FANTASYDANGAL

NEW DELHI: India's booming skill-based online gaming platform — Dangkal Games on Wednesday announced the launch of its third initiative prior to the beginning of IPL 14 and it forays into the league of fantasy gaming as *FantasyDangal*. The application will go live on April 9 and provide a fantasy forum for the users and audiences around different sports genres.

MYTEAM11 LAUNCH 'AB POORA INDIA KHELEGA'

JAIPUR: MyTeam11, one of the leading fantasy sports platforms, unveiled their campaign for the Indian T20 season — 'Ab Poora India Khelega'; aimed at bringing forth the narrative of how fantasy cricket is meant for all and brings every Indian household closer by binding them through the passion for their favourite sport, players and teams.

FEDEX TO MAKE COMEBACK IN MADRID

MADRID: Roger Federer is set to play his first match on clay in almost two years at next month's Madrid Open. The 39-year-old was listed among the players to have registered for the May 2-9 tournament, with Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal also in the 56-man field.

ARCHERS FIRST TO GET FULLY VACCINATED

PUNE: Olympic-bound Indian archers on Wednesday took their second shots of Covid-19 vaccine, becoming the first fully vaccinated lot of athletes from the country ahead of the Tokyo Games. In an initiative by the Army Sports Institute, all the eight senior archers, the coaches and support staff were administered the second shot at the Military Hospital.

SABLE TO TRAIN IN UGANDA FROM APRIL 10

NEW DELHI: Olympic-bound steeplechaser Avinash Sable is set to train in Uganda from April 10 to July 20 after getting a go ahead from the Sports Ministry, which approved a proposal sent by the AFI. He will be training under foreign coach Addy Ruitler.

MARY, LOVLINA IN ASIAN C'SHIP SQUAD

NEW DELHI: Olympic-bound six-time world champion MC Mary Kom (51kg) will spearhead the Indian women's challenge in the Asian Boxing Championship slated to be held New Delhi from May 21 to 31. Mary Kom is a six-time Asian medalist, including five Golds. Another prominent name in the team is two-time world Bronze-winner Lovlina Borghoin (69kg). Simranjit Kaur (60kg) and Pooja Rani (75kg) are the other Tokyo-qualified boxers in the squad.

SAILOR NETHRA QUALIFIES FOR OLYMPICS

NEW DELHI: Nethra Kumanan on Wednesday became the first Indian woman sailor to qualify for the Olympics after she was assured of a top-place finish in the laser radial event of the Asian Qualifiers in Oman. The 23-year-old Kumanan (18 points) has a 21-point advantage over her nearest rival, who also happens to be an Indian — Ramya Saravanan (39) in the Laser Radial Class event with one race to go. In sailing, the athlete who has the least points wins the competition.

SANIA MIRZA INCLUDED IN TOPS

NEW DELHI: Sania Mirza was on Wednesday included in the Government's Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), four years after she opted out of the programme. "Yes, Sania has been selected in the recent TOPS list," a SAI source said.

ICC readies back-up plan for T20 WC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ICC's interim CEO Geoff Allardice on Wednesday said the body has backup plans in place for the T20 World Cup in India later this year but is currently not entertaining any thoughts of moving it out of the country despite a surge in Covid-19 cases.

The tournament is scheduled to be held in October-November in India, which is reporting over one lakh daily cases for the past few days. Amid the Covid surge, the IPL is due to start on Friday in Chennai behind closed doors.

"We are certainly proceeding

on the assumption that the event is going ahead as planned," Allardice said during a virtual media round-table.

"Plan B we have, but we haven't activated those plans yet. We are working with the BCCI, we do have backup plans that can be activated if the time comes."

"We're not oblivious to what is going on around the world and we continue to take updates on all aspects of how sporting events are being run and the situation in each country."

"Cricket is being played in a number of countries around the world, we're taking lessons from all

of those and proceeding as planned."

"We do have back-up plans that can be activated when the time is right. We're not anywhere near that timeline yet. We've got a number of months to be able to see how the situation is and how cricket events are being run."

The 53-year-old Australian, who has played domestic cricket in his country, said the ICC is also in touch with other sports bodies to understand how they are managing in the Covid era.

"Cricket is being played in a number of countries at the moment and we are learning from

all of them.

"We have been talking to others sports bodies about what they are doing, we are in a reasonably good shape at the moment but acknowledge that the world is changing at a rapid rate."

"We have also got the World Test Championship final coming up in two months' time, but we are proceeding with both as planned," he said.

The UAE, which hosted the IPL last year, could be one of the backup venues for the shortest format's biggest international event should the situation demand a shift.

India hold Argentina for 4-4 win



PTI ■ BUENOS AIRES

Olympic champions Argentina quelled India's chances of a second consecutive victory as they made a strong comeback for a 4-4 draw in a tense practice match here on Wednesday.

It was Varun Kumar (7th and 44th), Rajkumar Pal (13th), Rupinder Pal Singh (14th) who scored for India while Leandro Tolini (10th), Lucas Toscani (23rd), Ignacio Ortiz (42nd) and Lucas (57th) found the target for the home team.

India had won the first practice match 4-3.

India made a fine start with a well-structured attack that fetched them three goals in the first quarter.

The first goal was courtesy forward Mandeep Singh who helped India earn a penalty corner in the seventh minute which was effortlessly converted by dragflicker Varun Kumar.

they earned a PC. Leandro Tolini, who scored twice in the previous match, came up with a well-executed dragflick to equalise.

India, however, regained the lead with Rajkumar Pal's goal in the 13th minute. He was assisted by Nilakanta Sharma who has been in good nick, showing his prowess as an attacking midfielder.

In the following minute, a PC earned by India forward Lalit Upadhyay saw Rupinder Pal Singh score a splendid goal, taking India's lead to 3-1 in the 14th minute.

The second quarter began with both teams trading PCs with each other but none were successful. However, in the 23rd minute, Argentina's Lucas Toscani struck a fine goal to narrow India's lead to 3-2.

Though India replied with aggressive attack, they were unable to create successful forays into the striking circle.

Following the 10-minute half-time break, both teams vied to dominate with the ball and played on par with each other to keep the tempo up.

It was eventually Argentina who succeeded in breaking the gridlock in this quarter by earning a PC which was well-struck by Argentina's attacking midfielder Ignacio Ortiz.

The 3-3 equaliser didn't dampen India's spirit as they successfully scored the fourth goal via forward Dilpreet Singh who made a successful entry into the striking circle, earning India a PC in the 44th minute. Varun made no mistake in converting the goal and regaining the lead for India.

India hold Argentina Sams latest to test Covid +ve

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Royal Challengers Bangalore's Australian all-rounder Daniel Sams on Wednesday tested positive for Covid-19 ahead of the IPL starting on April 9, but opener Devdutt Padikkal recovered from the dreaded infection to join the side.

According to a statement issued by RCB on its Twitter handle, the 28-year-old all-rounder arrived in India on April 3 and had a negative Covid-19 test report at that time.

"His (Sams) report from the 2nd test on 7th April came positive. Sams is currently asymptomatic and he is currently in isolation at a designated medical facility," the RCB said.

"Royal Challengers Bangalore medical team is in constant touch with Daniel Sams and continue to monitor his health and abide by the BCCI protocols."

Sams was traded to the RCB this season from Delhi Capitals. He became the second RCB player to test positive for the infection after left-

handed opening batsman Padikkal.

Padikkal, however, came out negative in the latest round of testing. The 20-year-old had been in home quarantine since March 22 after being infected. He was RCB's highest scorer last season with 473 runs from 15 matches.

"Devidutt Padikkal, has joined the team on 7th April 2021 with negative reports for Covid-19 as per BCCI protocols. RCB medical team was in constant touch with Devdutt to ensure his safety and well-being," the franchise said.

Zaman scripts series win for Pak

AGENCIES ■ CENTURION



Pakistan have become the second team after Australia to win two bilateral ODI series in South Africa after successfully defending 321 in the decider in the third ODI at SuperSport Park. They earned 20 points in the World Cup Super League and move to the top of the table, level with England and Australia.

In a match that tested both teams' depth with 11 changes across the two teams - SA made seven and Pakistan four - one player's touch remained exactly the same. Fakhar Zaman scored his second successive hundred, and on the way, became the first Pakistan batsman to score more than one ODI century in SA and score the most runs by a batsman in a three-match series against SA to set up the victory.

Between him and Babar, who notched up 94, they asked their hosts to pull off the highest successful chase at this ground, as Kyle Verreynne and Andile Phehlukwayo almost pulled off a coup. Their 99-ball 108-run sixth-wicket partnership steadied South

Africa from 141 for 5 and put them 73 runs away from a win. But in the end, the tail was left with too much to do after most of the rest of the top six were undone by spin, with Mohammad Nawaz and Usman Qadir taking four wickets between them.

While SA will once again have cause to examine their approach against the turning ball, they also missed their frontline attack, all of whom have departed for the IPL. With Kagiso Rabada, Anrich Nortje and Lungi Ngidi absent, Daryn Dupavillon, Lutho Sipamla and Beuran Hendricks bowled 18 overs for 118 runs without taking a single wicket. Instead, it was Keshav Maharaj, brought in for Tabraiz Shamsi, who

enjoyed the most success, supported by allrounder Jon-Jon Smuts and part-time offspinner Aiden Markram. In total, SA bowled 28 overs of spin - the most in a home ODI - and they collectively picked up six wickets.

Markram and South Africa began well with the ball and Pakistan only got one boundary away in the first six overs, but that was the calm before the storm. When Zaman hit the first six of the innings - off a Sipamla short ball that he muscled over midwicket - the openers seemed to find rhythm. Imam-ul-Haq, meanwhile, took on Dupavillon's short ball with his trademark pull and brought up his half-century off 60 balls.