

OPINION 6
INDIA'S ROLE IN
MYANMAR CRISIS**WORLD 8**
IRAN TO ENRICH URANIUM
TO HIGHEST LEVEL EVER**AVENUES 10**
IT'S A NEW-AGE
FOR CAREERS

Established 1864

Published From
DELHI LUCKNOW BHOPAL BHUBANESWAR
RANCHI RAIPUR CHANDIGARH
DEHRADUN HYDERABAD VIJAYWADA*Late City Vol. 10 Issue 100
*Air Surcharge Extra if Applicable

RAIPUR, WEDNESDAY APRIL 14, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com

BHUVI WINS ICC
PLAYER OF
MONTH AWARD
12 SPORT

Maha bars public movement

Only essential services allowed to break coronavirus chain

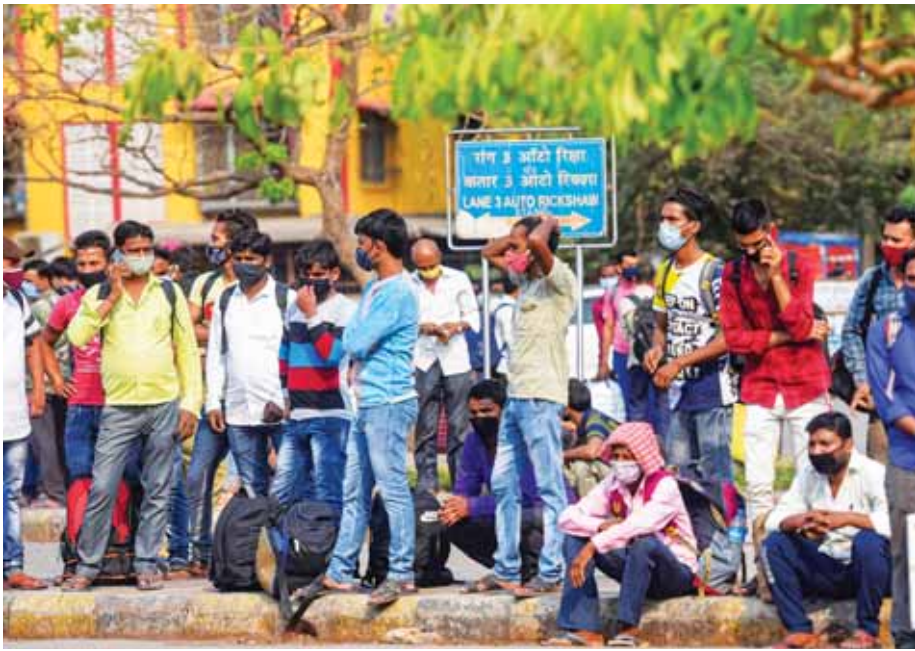
TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Stopping short of announcing formally a full-fledged lockdown across the State, the Maharashtra Government has decided to impose more stern restrictions, including Section 144 of the CrPc and night curfew, ban on movement of people in public places without a valid reason and closure of all public places and private offices and activities barring the essential services, for 15 days from 8 pm on April 14 to May 1, 2021.

Announcing a new set of stern guidelines aimed at breaking the chain of rapid spread of infections announced late on Tuesday, Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray said, "Without any alternative on hand, we have imposed stern restrictions. We have already wasted enough time. Earning livelihood is important for people. But, saving lives is more important for us at this juncture."

The night curfew will be in force from 8 pm on Wednesday. One of the major restrictions will be a ban on movement of people in public places without valid reasons as mentioned in the guidelines.

All essential services, including medical stores hospitals, supply of medicines, among others will remain operational. The local transport will also function for those involved in essential services,



Passengers gather outside Lokmanya Tilak Terminus to board outstation trains, amid the ongoing spike in Covid cases, in Mumbai on Tuesday

PTI

the CM said.

Decision regarding inclusion of domestic help/driver attendants to work in the exception category will be taken by the local authorities based on the local conditions, the "break the chain" issued on Tuesday night stated.

The announcement about the new restrictions came on a day when an alarming 60,212 fresh infections were recorded, while 281 more died in the

State.

Hospitals, diagnostic centres, clinics, vaccinations, medical insurance offices, pharmacies, pharmaceutical companies, other medical and health services, supporting the manufacturing and distribution units along with their dealers, transport and supply chain, manufacturing and distribution of vaccines, sanitises, masks, medical equipment, their ancillaries, raw material units and

support services have been exempted from the restrictions.

Among other things, groceries, vegetables shops, fruit vendors, dairies, bakeries, confectionaries, all types of food shops, public transports - including air planes trains, buses, taxis, auto rickshaws, banks e-commerce, petrol pumps, water supply services, electric and gas supply services and ATMs have been exempt-

ed from the restrictions.

Hotels and restaurants have been allowed to continue home delivery service, while restaurants and bars will remain open only for in-house guests.

As part of the restrictions, the State Government announced distribution of three kilograms of wheat, two kilograms of rice to poor people for one full month. It will give one-time assistance of Rs 1,500 per month to each registered construction workers, authorised hawkers and licenced autorickshaw drivers.

The Maharashtra Government on Tuesday announced that films, TV serials and advertisement shoots will be halted in the State from Wednesday evening as part of the fresh guidelines to curb the coronavirus cases.

BN Tiwari, President of the Federation of Western India Cine Employees (FWICE) said the state government's decision has come as a "huge shock".

"We should have been allowed to work. Films and TV shoots were underway with complete precautions, adhering to all Government guidelines. But the complete halt of shootings is a setback. We plan to write a letter to the CM, requesting him to allow us to shoot."

"We would take utmost precaution, figure out new, stricter guidelines but if the work is stopped, it'll be a huge loss for us," Tiwari told PTI.

Explosive growth in Covid cases, deaths

UP joins race with over 18K cases in 24 hrs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/LUCKNOW

With the Covid-19 cases spiking mostly in Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh, the country on Tuesday breached its previous single-day high and recorded 1,81,670 cases and 996 deaths during the last 24 hours.

Maharashtra continued to lead the surge by reporting 60,212 cases and 281 death.

After Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh emerged as the second worst-affected State on daily rise count as it reported 18,021 cases, followed by Chhattisgarh (15,121), Karnataka (8,778) and Madhya Pradesh (8,998 cases). While UP saw 85 deaths and Chhattisgarh 109, Karnataka reported 67 deaths and MP saw 40 fatalities.

The situation in UP is fast going out of hands amid acute shortage of beds and medicines reported across the state.

"In the past 24 hours, 18,021 fresh cases were reported while 3,474 people were discharged in this period. There are 95,980 active cases while 61,829 were treated and discharged.



Hindu devotees wearing face masks as a precautionary measure against the coronavirus wait to offer prayers inside a temple dedicated to goddess Kali in Jammu on Tuesday

AP

Covid-19 IN INDIA
TOTAL CASES: 1,38,67,887 (+1,81,670)
DEATHS: 1,72,085 (+996)
RECOVERED: 1,23,26,935 (+81,176)
ACTIVE: 13,58,518
MAHARASHTRA: 35,19,208
KERALA: 11,80,398
KARNATAKA: 10,83,647
TAMIL NADU: 9,47,129
DELHI: 7,50,156 (+13,468)

YOGI IN ISOLATION AS CMO OFFICIALS TEST COVID +VE

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday isolated himself after some officials in his contact tested positive for Covid-19. "The officers of my office tested positive for coronavirus. They were in touch with me, therefore, as a precaution, I am isolating myself and starting all my work digitally," the CM said.

Record 13.5K cases in a day, Kejriwal seeks to defer exams

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the national Capital logged record 13,468 new Covid-19 cases in a span of 24 hours, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday appealed to the Centre to cancel the Class 10 and 12 board exams and explore alternative methods, including online exams.

Warning that conducting the exams may contribute to the large-scale spread of the virus, he said the exam centres could emerge as major hotspots.

"Six lakh children in Delhi are going to write CBSE exams. Nearly one lakh teachers will be a part of it. These (centres) can become major hotspots leading to large-scale spreading of corona. Children's lives and health are very important to us. I request the Centre to cancel the CBSE exams," he said at a Press conference on Tuesday afternoon.

The Central Board of Secondary Education can explore other methods, including online exams and promoting students on the basis of internal assessments, he said. "Several countries have done it, some States in India are doing it too," he added.

Didi accuses EC of bias, poll panel bans Bengal BJP chief for 48 hours

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Soon after the 24-hour ban on her election campaigns ended at 8 pm on Tuesday, Bengal Chief Minister hit out at the Central Government and the Election Commission for discriminating between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress insofar as their rights to campaign was concerned.

Attacking the BJP, she said, "They have controlled all the agencies and are trying now to stop me from reaching out to the electorate."

In an apparent reference to the Commission, Mamata, who was addressing an election rally at Barasat in the northern fringes of Kolkata, asked, "Why there is a bid to stop me only and why the BJP is not being stopped?"

Saying that she was not the kind of person to get intimidated by such actions (banning from campaigns) Mamata said, "I am not the one who will run back to safety of home... I will hit back if I am hit at."

Alleging that there was a bid to make Bengal a Gujarat of sorts, she said, "I will never



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, sitting on a wheelchair, stages a protest after EC imposed a 24-hour campaigning ban on the TMC leader, in front of the Gandhi Statue in Kolkata on Tuesday

PTI

allow Bengal to be made a Gujarat... Bengal will remain what it is."

Amid criticism of the poll body by the TMC for allegedly acting tough on the TMC leaders and going soft on the BJP rabble rousers, the Election Commission banned former Bengal BJP president

Rahul Sinha — who is contesting on a BJP ticket from Habra in North 24 Parganas for 48 hours — from campaigning for making inflammatory speeches regarding the

Sitalkuchi police firing in which four persons were killed.

The ECI banned Sinha till Thursday 12 pm, after "strongly condemning" his inflammatory statements. It "sternly warned him to be careful from such statements while making public utterances" during the election. Sinha had earlier told that the CPF "should have shot dead not four but eight people" in Sitalkuchi in Cooch Behar because "such terrorists deserve to be killed like that."

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After India granted permission to Russia made Sputnik V vaccine for emergency use, moves are afoot to widen the ambit of Covid-19 vaccine basket by giving approval to more jabs manufactured in countries like the US, the UK, Japan.

Meanwhile, the Centre on Tuesday maintained that there was no vaccine shortage given that over 1.67 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses were still available with States and UTs and the main problem was that of better planning.

Addressing a Press conference here, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said so far States and UTs have received 13,10,90,370 vaccine doses, out of which the total consumption, including wastage, has been 11,43,69,677. "As per 11 am data, unutilised doses available with States and Union Territories for administration is 1,67,20,693. From now till April end, 2,01,22,960 doses are in supply pipeline to states and UTs," he said.

Vaccines on the WHO's emergency use list will also be

part of this opening up with an aim to meet the growing demand for Covid-19 surge following a surge in infections in the country.

Presently, Covishield and Covaxin developed by Oxford University-AstraZeneca and manufactured by Serum Institute of India (SII) and Bharat Biotech International Ltd (BBIL) respectively are provided under the nationwide vaccination programme launched on January 16.

Now the Government has accepted the recommendation of an expert panel which said that Covid-19 vaccines which have been developed and are being manufactured in foreign countries and which have been granted emergency approval for restricted use by authorities in the US, Europe, the UK, Japan or which are listed in the WHO Emergency Use Listing, may be granted emergency use approval in India.

The expert panel also mandated the requirement of post-approval parallel bridging clinical trial in place of conduct of local clinical trial.

According to the Union



Employees pack boxes containing vials of AstraZeneca's Covishield vaccine at the Serum Institute of India in Pune

AP

Health Ministry, the first 100 beneficiaries of such foreign vaccines shall be assessed for seven days for safety outcomes before it is rolled out for further immunisation programme within the country.

The DCGI gave its nod for the emergency use of Sputnik vaccine based on recommendations of the Subject Expert Committee. The interim results of safety immunogenicity and efficacy from Russian Phase-III clinical trial have been published in Lancet journal.

US recommends 'pause' for J&J vax over clot reports

Washington: The US on Tuesday recommended a "pause" in using the single-dose Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine to investigate reports of rare but potentially dangerous blood clots, a development that could jeopardise the rollout of vaccines around the world. **P8**

Goa Forward Party withdraws from BJP-led NDA

PTI ■ PANAJI

The Goa Forward Party walked out of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Tuesday, citing "anti-Goan policies" of the BJP-led State Government.

However, the move of the GFP, which has 3 MLAs in the 40-member Goa House, will not have any impact on the stability of the Pramod Sawant Government in the State since the Vijai Sardesai-led party is not a ruling constituent.

The GFP extended support to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 2017 to facilitate the formation of the then BJP-led state government under the leadership of Manohar Parrikar.

After Parrikar's death in 2019, the alliance soured when three GFP ministers were dropped from the Pramod Sawant-led Government.

Kerala Min Jaleel quits days after nepotism finding by Lok Ayukt

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

KT Jaleel, the controversial Minister for Higher Education in Kerala's Pinarayi Vijayan Cabinet, resigned on Tuesday. The resignation came after the findings by the Lok Ayukt that Jaleel has committed impropriety and was guilty of "nepotism, abuse of power and violation of oath office" in appointing KT Adeb, his close relation as the general manager of Kerala State Minorities Development Finance Corporation in 2016.

The last three days saw the CPI(M) and its intellectual giants like Minister A K Balan and politburo member Kodiyeri Balakrishnan ruling out Jaleel's resignation. But things took a turn for the worse on Monday following revelations that it was Chief



Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, who had signed the papers authorising the appointment of Adeb, who did not have the minimum qualifications for the post.

The file dealing with the appointment of Adeb in the senior post of the Government-owned body was not discussed in the Cabinet. It was also revealed that Vijayan had signed the file against the advice by the officials of the general administration department of the State.

Monsoon to be normal this year: Skymet

New Delhi: Skymet — a private weather forecasting agency — said on Tuesday the southwest monsoon in 2021 that will start from June is expected to be normal or above normal for the third consecutive year.

In its preliminary monsoon forecast for 2021, Skymet Weather said monsoon rain from June to September is likely to 103 per cent of the long period average (LPA). In 2020 and 2019, the monsoon was above normal at 110 per cent and 109 per cent of LPA respectively. The last time India had three consecutive years of normal monsoon was between 1996 and 1998.

The LPA for June to September rainfall is estimated to 880.6 mm, meaning if the forecast comes true, the actual rainfall in the country will be around 907 millimeters. **PNS Detailed report on P4**

CAPSULE

PM PAYS TRIBUTES TO JALLIANWALA VICTIMS
New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to the victims of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre on Tuesday, and said their courage, heroism and sacrifice give strength to every Indian.

AT 40.2° C, DELHI SEES HOTTEST DAY SO FAR
New Delhi: Delhi on Tuesday recorded a maximum temperature of 40.2 degrees Celsius, the highest so far this month, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said. The minimum temperature settled at 19.4 degrees Celsius, a notch below normal, it said.

3 FISHERMEN FEARED KILLED AS SHIP COLLIDES
Mangaluru: At least three fishermen are feared dead and nine others are missing after their fishing boat collided with a foreign vessel off the coast of Mangaluru early on Tuesday, sources said.

COVID-19 IN DELHI

Donate plasma as stock in hospital dwindling: CM

SAPNA SINGH ■ NEW DELHI

With the national Capital witnessing a massive surge in Covid-19 cases, that reached up to 13,500 in 24 hours, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday appealed to the patients who have recovered from the disease to come forward and donate plasma as its stock in hospitals is dwindling.

As per Covid-19 data of last 10-15 days, 65 per cent patients are below 45 years. Youngsters are getting afflicted with Covid, the Delhi Government is worried about their well being, said an official adding that prevention was needed and people should come forward to donate plasma on the appeal of the Chief Minister.

Urging people to step out of the house only when it is necessary and follow Covid protocol, Kejriwal also requested Central Board of School Education (CBSE) to cancel examination for the safety of children and introduce another method to conduct the exams. As six lakh students will appear in exams and one lakh students will be involved in the examination process, the centres are potential threat to the lives of children.

Kejriwal requested the CBSE in evolving situation when prominent hospitals in city have been turned as Covid treatment centres as bed / patient ration emerged another challenge for the administration, Kejriwal said planned

surgeries like knee replacement can be delayed for 2-3 months though he stressed that there is enough capacity for emergency surgeries citing rationale stay home amid danger in fourth wave.

Kejriwal government also decided to attach banquet halls and hotels in the proximity of hospitals to increase the bed capacity where patients who do not require intensive care can be placed in these facilities while those requiring constant surveillance of hospital staff can be admitted into hospitals, “We need to also bring the hospital management within a system of efficient planning, so planned surgeries can be delayed for some time, emergency surgeries can still happen in our hospitals, said Kejriwal ensuring tight grip on situation.

On the possibilities of lockdown, Kejriwal said that his Government does not want to impose it and to strengthen existing healthcare facilities. “We are ready with a concrete plan on increasing the bed capacity of hospitals in Delhi. Some hospitals, both private and government, have been declared 100 percent COVID hospitals and will be catering only to COVID patients. I hope that we will receive support from the hospital management and the public in this. I understand that there are non-COVID diseases that require assistance, surgeries for instance,” he added.

Only 26 ventilators available in hospitals, alleges Congress

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Hitting out at the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government, Delhi Congress president, Anil Kumar, said only 26 ventilators are available in hospitals in the national Capital but the Government is doing nothing concrete to augment facilities even as the Covid-19 cases are increasing day by day.

“The situation now has reached a critical stage in the Capital which is evident from the fact that over 96 per cent of ventilators have been occupied as 155 patients were admitted in various Government run hospitals in the last 24 hours,” he said.

Kumar said that with just 26 ventilators available in Delhi Government hospitals now where mostly the common people go and the Covid pandemic making a rapid rise, Delhiites are facing a grave situation with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind doing nothing to ramp up infrastructure and other facilities in Government hospitals.

“Five out of the nine Government hospitals, including big hospitals like LNJP and Rajiv Gandhi, ventilators are

fully occupied, and the common people who are unable to afford the high cost of treatment in private hospitals face a life and death dilemma as Delhi Chief Arvind and his cabinet colleagues have only been making statements after statements without doing anything at the ground level to improve the facilities.

The availability of ventilators in the Central Government hospitals is also not better as 159 out of the 192 ventilators available have been occupied with just 17 per cent beds remaining empty, he said.

The Congress leader expressed concern at the rising demand for ventilators. He said that out of the 7932 patients admitted in Delhi hospitals, 1041 are on ventilators which show the seriousness of the fourth wave of the Corona pandemic in Delhi.

Elaborating it further, he said out of the remaining 4817 beds available for Corona patients, only 2.34 per cent ventilator facility is available which is inadequate to cater to the rising number of the patients infected with the COVID-19 in the National Capital.

50 inmates, 7 jail staff undergoing treatment

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Prison officials on Tuesday said over 50 inmates and seven jail staff in the three prison complexes of Delhi are presently undergoing treatment for Covid-19.

According to data, the number of active Covid-19 cases in Delhi Prisons till Tuesday stands at 59, including seven jail staff.

Sandeep Goel, the Director General (DG) of prison said that a total of 174 inmates tested positive for Covid-19 so far. “Of them, 120 have recovered and two have died, leaving fifty-two active cases. A total of 300 prison staff contracted the infection so far. Of them, 293 have recovered and seven are still under treatment,” said the DG.

The first case of the coronavirus was reported in Rohini Jail on May 13. Two Covid-19 positive inmates of Mandoli Jail died on June 15 and July 4. Both were senior citizens.

The prison officials had said ever since the outbreak of the pandemic in March, the Prisons Department remained vigilant and instructed its staff to not only maintain hygiene and social distancing among themselves but also spread awareness about the infection among inmates in the three jail complexes.

The inmates are being given lime water to boost their immunity, they had said. A total of 1,184 convicts and around 5,500 under-trials were released last year under the department’s decongestion drive amid the pandemic outbreak.

Earlier, the prison officials had said that the situation could be more difficult to manage when the inmates, who were granted parole during the pandemic outbreak last year, would return.

There are a total of 18,900 inmates in the Delhi Prisons comprising Tihar, Rohini and Mandoli jails. However, the intake capacity of Delhi Prisons Department is 10,026 inmates, the officials had said.

The number of inmates will pass the 20,000-mark as more will come after their emergency parole lapse, they had said. Meanwhile, the jail authority had asserted that all steps are being taken to keep the COVID-19 situation under control. The vaccination process in the jails is going on..

Covid-19: Kumbh boosting cases in Haridwar?

GAJENDRA SINGH NEGI ■ DEHRADUN

The fear of experts that the Kumbh in Haridwar could give a spike in the cases of the disease in the district and adjoining areas appears to be coming true. The data of the state health department shows that in the last seven days 2,476 cases of the disease have been reported from Haridwar district alone.

The data clearly shows that the number of cases of the disease in Haridwar have increased with the advent of Kumbh. On March 31, a day before the Kumbh started the state health department reported only 70 cases of the disease. This figure bounced to 149 on April 1 when Kumbh started. The increase in the number of cases in the district is also linked to an increase in testing of the pilgrims visiting Kumbh on the borders. On April 7, the authorities reported 308 new cases and took 18534 samples; similarly 227 and 229 cases were reported on April 8 and 9 respectively. The patient count in Haridwar increased to 254 on April 10 when 14217 samples were collected and jumped to 386 on April 11, a

day before the second Shahi Snan. On the day of Shahi Snan on April 12, the authorities collected 28585 samples for RT-PCR tests and reported 408 cases of the disease. On Tuesday, a day after the second Shahi Snan and a day before the third Shahi Snan, 594 new patients of the disease were reported in Haridwar.

It is pertinent to mention here that apart from other directives to control the spread of the disease during Kumbh, the Uttarakhand High Court (HC) had directed the administration to test 50,000 pilgrims daily in Kumbh. However the data of the department shows that from April 1 to 11, the state health department had done an average of 17529 tests a day which is much less than the target of 50000 tests per day set up by the Uttarakhand HC.

The founder of Social Development for Communities (SDC) foundation, Anoop Nautiyal said that the department data shows that only 33 percent tests of the 50,000 tests mandated by the HC are being done. He accepted that it is very difficult to enforce the social distancing norms during a mega event like Kumbh.

SDMC announces tax rebates to people who get Covid jab

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The SDMC has announced to provide additional rebate to the taxpayers of residential properties if they get anti-coronavirus vaccine.

Standing Committee Chairman Rajdutt Gahlot said that the civic agency has decid-

ed that the owner of a residential house and his or her eligible family members who have received or will receive Covid-19 vaccine can apply to avail additional rebate in payment of property tax

“Property owners can avail benefit of additional rebate of five percent in payment of tax.

An order in this regard has been issued by the concerned department of the SDMC and all eligible persons can avail the facility,” he added.

Gahlot also said that the entire world is reeling due to Covid-19 pandemic hence the need of the hour to encourage people for vaccination. “The

SDMC is also making all efforts to encourage people bby announcing such lucrative scheme. The aim is to ensure maximum people who have attained the age of 45 years get vaccinated.

Tax payers besides five percent rebate can also avail two per cent for making online

payment, he said, adding that the benefit of 15 percent rebate for depositing tax before June 30 will be continued for all.

The announcement came in the backdrop of the ‘Tika Utsav’ or vaccine festival being conducted all across the country from April 11-14. The initiative aims to vaccinate max-

imum eligible people against the virus.

North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash had on Saturday said, that owners (or any of their family members) of residential properties who have received the Covid-19 jab can apply for additional rebate in payment of property tax.

Public, pvt hosps told to reserve 40% beds in general category, 70% in ICU in G’gram

PARVESH SHARMA ■ GURUGRAM

In view of the spike in Covid-19 cases in Gurugram, the District Magistrate Dr Yash Garg, on Tuesday ordered all private and public hospitals to reserve 40 per cent of their total beds capacity in general category and 70 per cent beds in ICU/ventilator for Covid-19 patients.

Moreover, the data of available beds will be uploaded on the platform ‘onemapggm.gmda.gov.in’ of the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA) by the hospitals.

The order was issued under the epidemic diseases

Act-1897 and sub-section-2 of the Disaster Management Act-2005.

“As the district has crossed more than 1,100 cases in a single day and having more than 6,000 active cases at present. So in view of current covid situation we are in need of more dedicated ICU and Ventilator bed so demand of more hospitalization is likely to come. Effective health services and ensuring it’s efficient management is of utmost property for thr district administration. Therefore, it has decided to reserve sufficient number of beds at designated private health facilities for covid patients,” the order

said.

It further stated that the hospitals to provide services including human resources and logistics ie doctors, paramedical staff, medicine, ICU, ambulance etc. Apart from this information about the number of patients and available beds, etc., will be updated on a daily basis on the GMDA platform.

Apart from this, the Gurugram district on Tuesday recorded 998 fresh coronavirus cases. One death was also reported from the city, taking the district’s COVID toll to 370, officials said.

Active case count now 6,460 of which 6,018 are in home isolation.

Municipal body to push sanitisation drive in G’gram

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

Amid a surge in Covid-19 cases, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) will kick-off a sanitation drive across the city.

Under the campaign, teams of the civic body will conduct fogging along with sanitisation in various sectors and colonies throughout Gurugram.

Vinay Pratap Singh, Commissioner of the MCG, Gurugram said that a plan has been prepared in the first stage to launch sanitisation drive in the containment zones in the city.



“The campaign will be staged in containment zones on Wednesday and Thursday to serve 91 sectors of Gurugram. For this, the responsibility has been given to different team leaders. After this, sanitiza-

tion and fogging will be done in all the condominium, Sector and Colonies of Gurugram in the next stage,” Singh said.

The commissioner said people must follow the instructions and guidelines of the Covid-19 issued by the government.

“To curb infections it is necessary to maintain social distance between each other. Keep cleaning your hands from soap and use sanitizer. Do not go into crowded places and markets without precautions. Haryana Government has already imposed Night curfew and it should be followed strictly,” the commissioner said..

SECOND ROUND OF DIGITAL ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT

Min for public participation in curbing pollution from city

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In the second round of digital round table conference to tackle emerging environmental challenges mainly winter pollution, the Environment Minister Gopal Rai emphasised on public participation in creating awareness on pollution and other means/efforts.

“First, the Government will focus on changing the mindset and behaviour of people,” Rai said. “The Government will fight against air pollution as a mass movement,” he added.

Rai said, “Delhi Government has taken several steps to curb air pollution, and in particular dust pollution, and continues to come up with new schemes to battle the same. Since last October, our Government has focused on diverse steps to control vehicular pollution in the State, including launching the EV policy; increasing the number of public transport facilities; the red light on car off campaign; bio-decomposers to curb stubble burning; banning polluting industries and encouraging industries to shift to natural gas; tree transplantation policy to increase the city’s green cover; transplanting foreign kikar with indigenous plant

species, et al.”

Rai said, “Pondering on environmental pollution in the winter months when the AQI is severe is not a solution. We therefore, require your support. A plan is needed that can work through the year, and in the coming days, we will come up with an action plan to further better Delhi’s AQI. Nobody knows until when the pandemic will rage, and it’s not feasible to wait for so long. We would like your suggestions to create a viable and effective plan for the city.”

Illustrating further, he said that Delhi government work will move at three levels -- the first is the policy level, and one that if designed, has a positive impact on our city. Second, at a technological level. For instance, the technologies that will be effective in curbing air pollution. While we have identified hotspots, it is still challenging to measure the timing, the rate, source and impact of pollution.

The Delhi government is working at a technological level to find appropriate tools to measure these indicators which would in turn help us devise the correct policy. The third is the effective use of agencies at our disposal. We

had launched the Green Delhi App to register realtime complaints. Often when a crisis occurs, it is shuffled department to department because even officers incharge sometimes don’t know where their jurisdiction ends and the other’s begin. Delhi faces multiple challenges and if within these challenges we are able to deliver then that is a feat worth celebrating. The Delhi government, even in the face of adversities continues to stride forward. Last year during the anti-dust campaign, I went for field visits to construction sites. While we’re installing anti-smog guns at these big sites, it’s not limited to one site alone, but one that has contributors spread throughout the city. This is why we need the environment to become a people’s issue. People need to change.”

He said, “Within the constraints of the pandemic and restrictions on mass mobilisation, we need to create a mass movement. Our three-pronged approach needs to focus on policy, technology and making the environment a mass concern. People have the power. If the environment becomes a people’s concern then big milestones can be achieved.”

Haryana supplying untreatable water to Delhi: DJB

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Jal Board (DJB) Vice Chairman Raghav Chadha accused the Haryana Government of supplying pollutant water that is untreatable by any world-class treatment plants.

“We demand that the Haryana Government must supply water that is legally designated to and within the range of treatable PPM. The water up to 1 ppm can be treated and as of 4 PM at the stage of 7.6 PPM, which is untreatable. The Haryana Government must wake up,” he said.

He claimed that the Haryana Government willfully violated the right to life of people of 22 million citizens of Delhi.

“Haryana is not only transmitting pollutant water but has also reduced the level of water that it should maintain. The water they are transmitting is untreatable, and the pollutants cannot be diluted. We have been forced that neither can we make the water clean and pollutant-free nor can the water treatment plants function in 100 per cent capacity. This is the poisonous water that is being supplied to us by the Haryana government,” he said.

“The water is treated in three water treatment plants and transmitted to homes of Central, South and West Delhi. These plants are Wazirabad, Okhla, and Chandrawal. In Wazirabad, 135 MGD should be the optimum capacity, which has been reduced to 82 MGD today, directly meaning a shortage of 53 million gallons per day. In Chandrawal, we produce 92 MGD of water, which has been reduced to 71 MGD, a reduction of 21 MGD of water. In Okhla, we produce 21 MGD of water, today, it is at a stage of 10 MGD. So, in total, 85 MGD of the water supply has been reduced due to the whammy created by Haryana. The way the Haryana Government is working today, it looks like this 85 MGD will also be surpassed,” he added..

TV journalist joins probe for rape charges against him

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 28-year-old Mumbai-based television journalist, Varun Hiremath, joined the investigation in connection with an alleged rape case after over a month.

According to a senior police official, Hiremath joined the investigation on Sunday following the High Court orders. “He was questioned for seven hours.

He was questioned about his whereabouts, police said.

Earlier, a 22-year-old woman lodged a complaint where she alleged that she was raped by Hiremath at a five-star hotel in Chanakyapuri on February 20.

On the basis of her complaint, an FIR under IPC sections 376 (punishment of offence of rape), 342 (punishment for wrongful confinement) and 509 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman) was registered at Chanakyapuri police station here.

On Friday, the Delhi High Court granted interim protection from arrest to Hiremath in the case provided he joins the police investigation.

“Petitioner be not arrested till the next date of hearing subject to him joining the investigation as and when directed,” the high court had said.

Kumbh and Markaz shouldn’t be compared, says CM Tirath

PTI ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat on Tuesday said the ongoing Kumbh Mela in Haridwar should not be compared with the Nizamuddin Markaz which was held in a closed space and attended even by foreigners.

“There should be no comparison between Kumbh and Markaz. The Markaz was held in a closed space, in a Kothi like structure whereas the Kumbh is being held in the open on the sprawling ghats of the Ganga,” Rawat said on a weekly talk show organised by the Hindustan Times.

The chief minister was replying to a question as to why the two religious events should not be equated (Nizamuddin Markaz and Kumbh) as Kumbh also draws crowds and could strengthen the second wave of the coronavirus infection.

Citing other differences between the Kumbh Mela in Haridwar and Nizamuddin Markaz, Rawat said, “The devotees attending Kumbh are not from outside but our own people.” Moreover, when the Markaz

was held there was not much awareness about Corona nor were there any guidelines. No one knew for how long the attendees of the Markaz had remained in the confines of the structure,” he said. “Now there is more awareness both about Covid and the guidelines related to it,” the chief minister added.

He also said Kumbh comes once in 12 years and is linked with the faith and sentiments of millions of people. “Holding it successfully amid the challenge posed by Covid-19 by ensuring that the SOP is strictly followed by all is our goal,” he said.

Rawat said people’s health is a priority but matters of faith cannot be totally ignored. “Cases have of course risen of late but we are following the health ministry guidelines and the recovery rate is good. Arrangements are also adequate to deal with any situation,” he said.

Largescale arrangements of masks and sanitisers have been made in the Mela area and the entire machinery is working day and night to ensure that the Covid guidelines are followed by everyone, the chief minister said. **PTI**

UP Minister puts State authorities in dock; says not enough Covid beds, ambulances in Lucknow

Lucknow:In a letter that surfaced on social media, the Uttar Pradesh law minister has lashed out at his state’s health authorities, complaining that beds for coronavirus patients are falling short and ambulances take hours to arrive in the UP capital, which he said could face a lockdown again. Law Minister Brajesh Pathak’s purported letter on the situation in his constituency also blamed the recent death of a scholar on the lack of an ambulance, though Padma Shri-winner Yogesh Praveen’s family has denied making this charge. **PTI**

Jr docs irresponsibly go on strike while state need them most



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Amid a surge in Corona cases and deaths, resident doctors of Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Hospital, Chhattisgarh's biggest, on Tuesday launched a strike in Raipur in support of nine demands.

Junior Doctors Association President Dr Indresh Yadav said the resident doctors have been seeking quality PPE kits, N-95 masks and gloves for Corona

duty but the administration was not responding.

Yadav alleged that the doctors are being forced to wear poor quality PPE kits, masks and surgical gloves due to which many colleagues have been infected with Covid. Such doctors are being forced to take unpaid leave.

Other demands include induction of doctors posted in remote areas in Covid duty, extension of rural service con-

tract for one year, increase in scholarship, proper incentive for Covid Warriors, MD, MS, Medical Diploma examinations within the stipulated period and same stipend for MD, MS, Medical Diploma holders in rural service.

The striking doctors boycotted the Out Patient Department (OPD) duty barring Covid and emergency services with immediate effect, Yadav said.

If the demands are not met, the association will stop the emergency services from April 15 and, if needed, also give up the Covid duty on April 18 from 8 am, he said.

The Association handed over a memorandum to the Dean of Pt Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Medical College (JNMC) Dr Vishnu Dutt, who assured the doctors that necessary steps will be taken at the earliest.

CM discusses doctors' strike with Singh Deo

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel took cognizance of the problems faced by junior doctors at the Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar Hospital (BRAMH) here which led

them to launch a strike on Tuesday.

Baghel discussed the issue with Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo to resolve the doctors' concerns at the earliest, an official communication

said. The doctors boycotted the Out Patient Department (OPD) barring Covid and emergency cases in support of nine demands including supply of quality kits to be used in the battle against Covid-19.

LANDMARK DAY OF COVID PANDEMIC

India reported **1,61,736** new Covid-19 cases in the last 24 hours, setting another grim one-day record

At **1.36 CR** COVID-19 cases so far, India crossed Brazil's 1.34 crore tally but remains behind America's **3.12 CR**

Total Covid-19 deaths in India crossed **1,71,058**

India is now the fourth-worst Covid affected country worldwide after the number of active cases rose to **12,64,698**

ONE LAKH New active cases for the third consecutive day

All-time high in daily infections in as many as eight states.

UP and Delhi are the worst-hit states with daily new COVID-19 cases.

Cases logged in the last two weeks in all five states where elections were held are **doubling**

Kerala which reported a 16 per cent decline is now reporting an **84 per cent growth**



Chhattisgarh gets 9,100 Remdesivir injections

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Amid a reported shortage, the Chhattisgarh government on Tuesday said 9,100 Remdesivir injections have been distributed to hospitals in the state to battle Covid-19.

On Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's instruction, Chhattisgarh State Road Development Corp Managing Director Bhoskar Vilas Sandipan went to Mumbai to coordinate with companies producing the injection.

Likewise, the Managing Director of the Chhattisgarh State Industrial Development Corp, Arun Prasad, was sent to Hyderabad for the same purpose.

CM seeks donations to help daily wagers, needy

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

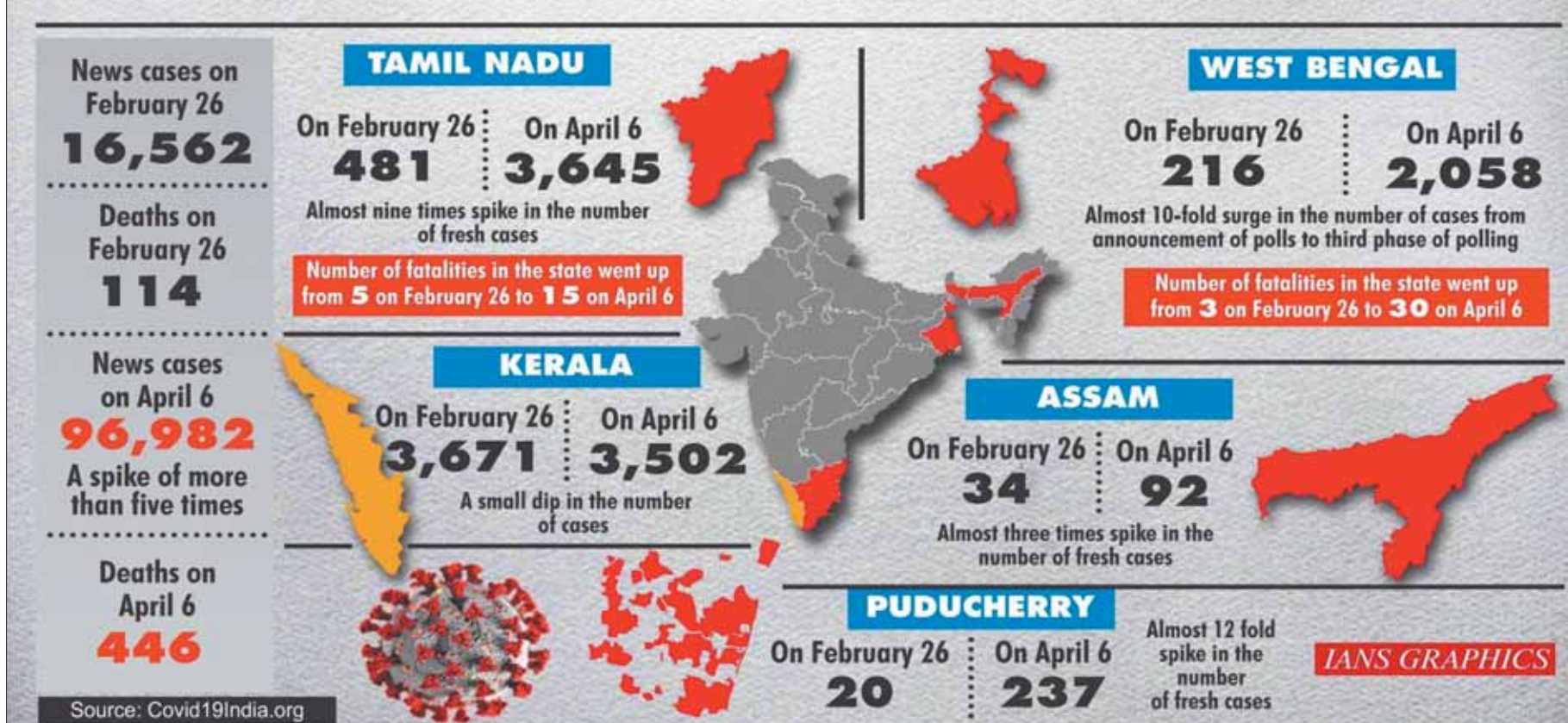
Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Tuesday appealed for donations to the Mukhya Mantri Sahayta Kosh to help daily wagers and the needy amid the Covid-19 crisis which has led to widespread lockdowns.

Baghel asked more and more people to donate and participate in helping the needy.

Funds can be deposited through the State Bank of India a/c number 30198873179, IFSC code SBIN0004286 and UPI ID cgmreliefund @ sbi.



COVID SURGE IN POLL BOUND STATES



Lockdown extended in Durg till April 19



STAFF REPORTER ■ DURG

The administration in Chhattisgarh's Durg district has extended the lockdown till April 19 in the battle against Covid-19, it was announced on Tuesday.

Durg Collector Sarveshwar Bhure said the lockdown has been extended by five days.

A press release quoted him as saying that the results of ongoing lockdown were effective and led to a fall in corona cases.

The Collector appealed to the people to cooperate with the authorities in checking the spread of Covid.

The original nine-day lockdown was imposed in the district from April 6 and it was to end on April 14.

Durg is one of the worst Covid-hit districts in Chhattisgarh.

The streets and markets have been deserted in Durg since April 6. Police teams are carrying out regular patrolling at important squares to prevent unnecessary movement of people.

On Monday, 1,591 fresh Covid cases were detected and 11 people died in the district, taking the death toll to 54.

Amid a surge in Corona cases and deaths, lockdown has been imposed in 20 districts including Raipur, Durg, Rajnandgaon, Betamara, Raigarh, Korba, Surguja, Surajpur, Gariaband, Janjgir-Champa, Bilaspur, Jashpur, Balod, Dhamtari, Baloda Bazar-Bhatapara, Mahasamund, Mungeli, Balrampur, Korea and Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi.

Four held for running IPL betting racket

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIGARH

Chhattisgarh Police arrested four persons for running an IPL betting racket from two places in Raigarh district.

Raigarh Superintendent of Police Santosh Singh on Tuesday told The Pioneer over telephone that Vishnu Agarwal (61), Rishi Agarwal (58) and Suresh Agrawal (54) were arrested from Lal Tanki area. Rohit Butani (25) was held from Sindh Colony in Raigarh town.

All four are residents of Raigarh district.

Police seized an LCD TV and Rs 47,000 in cash from the first three while a mobile phone and Rs 7,200 in cash was recovered from Butani.

Police also found betting records detailing transactions totalling Rs 14.5 lakh.

The four had placed bets on an IPL match between Rajasthan Royals and Kings XI Punjab on Monday night from the houses under the City Kotwali police station limits in Raigarh, the officer added.

OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER IN CHIEF PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, NAVA RAIPUR, ATAL NAGAR				
(CENTRAL TENDER CELL) E-Procurement Tender Notice				
Main Portal: https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in				
Tenders are invited for the Following Works:-				
S. No.	System Tender No. / Date	Name of Work	PAC Amount (Rupees in Lacs.)	
1	75846 (Second Call) 06-04-21	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of VRV/VRE HVAC System with Five Year Operation & Maintenance Contract for 7 Nos. Court Rooms in Campus of High Court, Bodari, Bilaspur (C.G.)	452.45	
2	75752 (First Call) 05-04-21	Construction of Hat to Jampali Road Length 8.00 Km. (CGRIDCL)	649.44	
3	75813 (First Call) 05-04-21	Construction of Anjoripali to Judga Road Length 2.20 Km. & Paladikhurd to Jogidipa Road Length 2.350 Km. (Total Length 4.55 Km. (CGRIDCL)	572.65	
4	75847 (First Call) 06-04-21	Construction of High Level Bridge and Approach Road Across Kinkari Nalla on Baramkela-Bade-Nawapara Road. (CGRIDCL)	1163.85	
5	75857 (First Call) 06-04-21	Construction of High Level Bridge and Approach Road Across Ahiran River on Tuman-Putuwa-Bankheta Road. (CGRIDCL)	1019.91	
6	75845 (First Call) 06-04-21	Construction of High Level Bridge and Approach Road Across Makakhadi Nalla on Nawapara-Bhatapara Road. (CGRIDCL)	391.93	
7	75812 (First Call) 06-04-21	Construction of High Level Bridge and Approach Road Across Sapnai Nalla on Turekela-Tiur Road. (CGRIDCL)	543.88	
8	75753 (First Call) 06-04-21	Construction Of Takhatpur Karankapa Siltara (Podi) Road Length 9.00 Km. (Actual L=8.875Km.)(CGRIDCL)	2218.61	
Last Date of Tender Downloading For S.No. 1 Scheduled as 23-04-2021, And For Other Tenders Date Scheduled as 29-04-2021 more details on the tender and bidding process please visit the above mentioned portal.				
Chief Engineer (Central Tender Cell) Office Of Engineer In Chief P.W.D. Nava Raipur Atal Nagar				
G- 60200/4 Ryp/Dtd 13.4.21				

Nursing students to care for Corona patients



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Health Department on Tuesday decided to deploy nursing students to take care of Covid-19 patients.

The department has instructed the Chief Medical and Health Officers (CMHOs) to contact Nursing College heads in their districts and make arrangements to appoint nursing students in hospitals and Covid care centers, a press release said.

The Director of Health Service, Neeraj Bansod, has issued a circular to this effect.

The circular says that the services of MSc Nursing first year and second year students, BSC final year, Post Basic BSC Nursing first and second year as well as GNM final year students should be taken.

The department said 13,576 fresh Covid cases were reported on Monday, taking the total positive cases in Chhattisgarh to 4.56 lakh.

Also, 107 more Covid patients died, pushing the fatalities in the state to 5,031.

Currently, there are 98,856 active cases while 3.52 lakh people have recovered from the pandemic in Chhattisgarh.

कार्यालय कलेक्टर (आदिवासी विकास) जिला बलरामपुर-रामानुजगंज मुख्यालय बलरामपुर (छ.ग.)
फोन नम्बर 07831-273780 ई-मेल:- acbalrampur@gmail.com

--: संशोधित सूचना :-

बलरामपुर, दिनांक 12/04/2021

क्रमांक/45/निर्माण/ आज्ञा/ 2020-21 :: सूचना प्रकाशन क्रमांक जी-87480 के तहत कार्यालयीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना क्रमांक 1517/ दिनांक 23.03.2021 के द्वारा आमंत्रित आनलाईन निविदा क्रमांक 72165, 72174, 72163, 72176 कोरोना वायरस (कोविड-19) के कारण उक्त अवधि में जिले में संपूर्ण लॉकडाउन घोषित होने के कारण आंशिक संशोधन करते हुये उपरोक्त निविदा दिनांक 28.04.2021 को दोपहर 12.00 बजे खोली जावेगी।

सहायक आयुक्त आदिवासी विकास बलरामपुर-रामानुजगंज छत्तीसगढ़

G- 60212/5 Ryp/Dtd 13.4.21

Can Fin Homes Ltd.
Sai Towers Building, 2nd Floor, Besides Azad Chowk Police Station
Amrapara, G.E. Road, Raipur 0771-2531100, 0771-4097077, 7625079138
Email: raipur@canfinhomes.com. CIN: L85110KA1987PLC008699

DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13 (2) of "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No. 54 of 2002)"

To,
Mrs. KESHAR SAHU D/O Late. BASANT KUMAR SAHU HOUSE NO 59 STAFF QUARTER, RAIVIGRAM, PANCHSHEEL NAGAR, TELIBANDHA RAIPUR

You along with Late Mr. Basant Kumar Sahu availed a housing loan from our branch against the security of mortgage of the following asset belonging to both of you. An amount of Rs. 19,69,880/- is due from you, to Can Fin Homes Ltd. as on 10/04/2021 together with future interest at the contracted rate.

Details of the mortgaged asset
All the piece and parcel of land together with building constructed thereon, situated at Kharsa No 312/30(p), Khata No 553, PH NO -10561, Rawatpura Nagar, Dr. Shyam Prasad Mukharjee ward, Mauza Mathpurana Raipur, Tehsil and District Raipur bounded on the East: House of Bheemraj Rashmi, West: Land of Udija, North: Road, South: House of Shikha Sahu.

Registered demand notice was sent to you under Section 13 (2) of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, but the same was returned unreserved. The undersigned has, therefore, caused these Notices to be pasted on the premises of the last known addresses of the said Borrower/s as per the said Act. Hence this paper publication. As you have failed to adhere to the terms of the sanction, the account is classified as a Non Performing Asset on 31/01/2021 as per the NHB Guidelines. You are hereby called upon to pay the above said amount with contracted rate of interest thereon from 11/04/2021 within 60 days from the date of this notice, failing which the undersigned will be constrained to initiate action under SARFAESI Act to enforce the aforesaid security. Further, the attention of borrowers / guarantors is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available to them to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 13.04.2021
Place: Raipur

Sd/-
Authorised Officer
Can Fin Homes Ltd.

Monsoon likely to be normal this yr: Skymet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Skymet, a private weather forecasting agency, said on Tuesday the southwest monsoon in 2021 that will start from June is expected to be normal or above normal for the third consecutive year.

In its preliminary monsoon forecast for 2021, Skymet Weather said monsoon rain from June to September is likely to be 103 per cent of the long period average (LPA). In 2020 and 2019, the monsoon was above normal at 110% and 109% of LPA respectively. The last time India had three consecutive years of normal monsoon was between 1996 and 1998.

The LPA for June to September rainfall is estimated to 880.6 mm, meaning that if the forecast comes true, the actual rainfall in the country will be around 907 millimeters.

Month-wise monsoon in June across the country will be 106 percent of LPA, which

will be 166.9 millimeters of rainfall. There are chances of 70 percent normal, 20 percent and 10 percent of above-normal rainfall in June.

The monsoon in July will be 97 percent of LPA, which will be 285.3 millimeters of rainfall. According to Skymet Weather, 75 % chances of normal, 10 % above normal, and 15 % below normal rainfall in July. Monsoon in August is expected to be 99 percent of LPA which will be 258.2 millimeters of rainfall across the country and monsoon in September is expected to the best at 116 percent of LPA which will be 170.2 mm of rainfall.

Skymet Weather said the northern plains, along with few parts of the northeast region, are likely to be at risk of being rain deficient through the season. Also, interior parts of Karnataka could face scanty rains in the core monsoon months of July and August.

“The onset month of June and the withdrawal phase of September is assuring good countrywide rainfall distribution,” it said.

According to Skymet, “La Nina conditions have been prevailing in the Pacific Ocean since last year. It is however expected to remain neutral through the monsoon season. Occurrence of El Nino which normally corrupts the monsoon is ruled out.”

Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) is neutral and is oscillating lightly on either side of the Zero lines. Its unlikely to harm the monsoon season.El Niño and the Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a periodic fluctuation in sea surface temperature and the air pressure of the overlying atmosphere across the equatorial Pacific Ocean according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

ENSO has a major influ-



ence on weather and climate patterns such as heavy rains, floods, and drought. El Niño has a warming influence on global temperatures, while La Niña has the opposite effect. In

India, for example, El Nino is associated with drought or weak monsoon while La Nina is associated with strong monsoon and above-average rains, and colder winters.

Out of the 685 districts in the country, the monsoon was normal in almost 75 percent of them, while it was deficient and below normal in the remaining in 2020.

Sushil Chandra assumes charge as Chief Election Commissioner

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra took over the post of Chief Election Commissioner on Tuesday, after outgoing CEC Sunil Arora demitted office on Monday.

Chandra has been an Election Commissioner since February 15, 2019 and a member of the Delimitation Commission for delimitation of Jammu and Kashmir since February 18, 2020, the Election Commission said in a statement. Under him, the EC will



hold assembly polls in Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. The term of the assemblies of Goa, Manipur, Uttarakhand and Punjab ends on various dates in March next year. The term of the Uttar Pradesh assembly ends on May 14 next year.

According to the EC, as an Indian Revenue Service officer, Chandra held several posts in the Income Tax department for nearly 39 years. He had been the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes from November 1, 2016 to February 14, 2019.

Chandra, a retired IAS officer, completed his tenure of nearly 29 months as CEC, having led the EC during the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections. He is also an ex-officio member of the Delimitation Commission since February 18, 2020 looking after the process in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

Having held several posts in the Income Tax Department for nearly 39 years, Mr. Chandra was appointed the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman on November 1, 2016. He spent considerable time as Director of Investigation and Director General of Investigation, Mumbai and Gujarat, respectively followed by his stint as Member (Investigation), CBDT and thereafter assuming the post of Chairman of this apex body.

India, France discuss regional, global challenges

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and France on Tuesday Reviewed the entire gamut of their bilateral relation including strategic ties during talks here between External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian.

Besides growing economic, defence and strategic ties, the two leaders also discussed the regional as well as global challenges. The French Minister arrived here on Monday evening on a three-day visit to explore ways to further boost cooperation between the two countries, including in the Indo-Pacific region.

Incidentally, the talks were held days after the Quadrilateral countries including India, the US, Japan, and Australia participated in a naval drill led by the French navy in



the eastern Indian Ocean region last week.

The three-day exercise ‘La Perouse’ was a reflection of their growing strategic cooperation in the region.

The exercise witnessed complex and advanced naval operations including surface warfare, anti-air warfare and air defence exercises. The Indian Navy had said its participation demonstrated the shared values with friendly navies ensuring freedom of seas and commitment to an open, inclusive

Indo-Pacific and a rules-based international order.

Meanwhile, after the talks on Tuesday, Jaishankar said India and France will advance their shared post-COVID-19 agenda through “close collaboration”.

“A comfortable, substantive and productive discussion with FM @Y_LeDrian. India and France will advance their shared post-COVID agenda through close collaboration,” he tweeted.

French ambassador

Emmanuel Lenain described the meeting as “excellent”. “Excellent meeting b/w @Y_LeDrian @francediplo_EN & @DrSJaishankar @MEAIndia. The ministers discussed all aspects of the bilateral strategic partnership, regional & global challenges and cooperation at the #UNSC,” Lenain said in a tweet.

On Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs said the visit by the French foreign minister will pave the way for further strengthening of bilateral partnership across trade, defence, climate, migration and mobility, education and health sectors in the post-COVID-19 context.

The French embassy said Le Drian is undertaking the visit to strengthen strategic ties between France and India, boost cooperation in several

fields, particularly the Indo-Pacific.

The defence and security ties between India and France are on an upswing in the last few years. India had signed an inter-governmental agreement with France in September 2016 for procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets at a cost of around Rs 58,000 crore. Dassault Aviation, the manufacturer of Rafale jets, has delivered 14 aircraft to the IAF so far.

visit came a week after a three-part investigative series by French media outlet, Mediapart revealed, based on French anti-corruption agency audit, how French aircraft manufacturer Dassault Aviation had paid €1 million to an Indian company owned by a middleman, Sushen Gupta, in connection with the ₹7.87 billion Rafale deal between India and France in 2016.

In first, NCDC secures Euro 68.87 mn loan from Deutsche bank

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when Covid-19 induced Covid-19 crisis has made lending a challenging proposition, the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has secured a Euro 68.87 million (nearly ₹600 crore) loan from Deutsche Bank, Germany's largest bank, for onward lending to cooperative societies in the country.

An agreement was inked

between the NCDC, a development finance statutory institution under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and the German Bank in this regard in the presence of Union Agriculture Minister, Narendra Singh Tomar here on Tuesday.

On the occasion, a pact was also signed between the Kolkata-based Indian Chamber of Commerce and the NCDC, according to which India Inc will help boost farmers' link-

ages with markets and sell produce in the private sector.

Tomar said that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given a new vision to India's agrarian landscape and to her economic relations with Germany. He added that the Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) being set up in the country would be able to access easier credit and market through the NCDC agreements with ICC and Deutsche Bank. “This will help

fill gaps and challenges being faced by the farmers and ultimately boost their income to make them self-reliant.”

This is for the first time that one of the largest European banks is lending to the NCDC. In a statement, Kaushik Shaparia, CEO & Country Head, Deutsche Bank AG, said that he looked forward to a robust relationship with NCDC in the agri space.

While Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agarwal

talked about financial steps taken in recent years to develop markets and boost farmers' income, NCDC MD Sundeep Nayak said that the financing would help NCDC to assist farmers to make a successful pivot towards sustainable, climate-smart agriculture. “Right from our founding as an organisation since 1963 for co-operatives, we have always strived to support farmers in their journey to achieve sustainable livelihoods,” said the MD.

KVIC chairman Saxena all set to take on activist Patkar in West Bengal

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

KVIC chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena is all set to take on activist Medha Patkar in West Bengal where she has been addressing a series of “Kisan Panchayats”.

Saxena will be holding parallel dialogues with the locals. Saxena and Patkar are locked in the legal battle for over 20 years.

Saxena alleged that it was because of Patkar's agitations in Singur in 2007 that industrial development in West Bengal stopped and caused a huge loss of employment and livelihood in the state. And again, by spreading falsehood and instigating farmers, Patkar was attempting to deprive them of the benefits of the farm bills enacted by the Central Government, he said.

Citing the FIR registered against Patkar and her aides by

Delhi Police in connection with the January 26 violence in Delhi, Saxena said Patkar has a history of provoking violence in the guise of protests.

“Patkar was the main conspirator of the violence in Singur. Similarly, in the Narmada valley, she instigated farmers to attack police and government officials on a number of occasions.

It was Patkar, who gave false testimony against India in the USA, which led to the withdrawal of the World Bank support to the Sardar Sarovar Dam. Her anti-dam protests in Madhya Pradesh led to the sufferings of lakhs of farmers due to the non-availability of Narmada water for over 20 years in Gujarat and Rajasthan. Industrial growth in Madhya Pradesh was severely hampered due to power shortage arising out of delay in com-

missioning of hydro-power projects on River Narmada,” Saxena said.

Saxena, who has ly dragged Patkar to courts in several criminal cases said all agitations staged by Patkar were guided by her foreign masters with the sole objective of stalling the pace of development in India.

“Be it her anti-dam protests in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan or her agitation in West Bengal against the TATA Nano project in Singur, the motive has been clear – stalling the development projects by misleading the local tribals and villagers. Medha Patkar's foreign connections are already in the public domain and her presence in West Bengal is an indication of further unrest and support to the anti-India forces that do not want any development in the state,” he said.

‘Problem not of Covid jab crisis but of planning’



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday maintained that there was no vaccine shortage given that over 1.67 crore Covid-19 vaccine doses were still available with States and UTs and the main problem was that of better planning.

Addressing a press conference here, Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said

so far states and UTs have received 13,10,90,370 vaccine doses, out of which the total consumption, including wastage, has been 11,43,69,677.

As per 11 am data, unutilised doses available with states and union territories for administration is 1,67,20,693. From now till April end, 2,01,22,960 doses are in supply pipeline to states and UTs,” he said.

Jaishankar stresses on South-South cooperation

He highlights India’s role in fight against pandemic

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stressing upon the need for greater international synergy in humanitarian and disaster assistance, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday called for South-South co-operation and highlighted India's role in the fight against the corona pandemic.

Making this point in a virtual meeting of the Raisina Dialogue here, the Minister said even though South-South co-operation was there for a while but with increased globalisation it was imperative to change those fancy words into practical initiatives.

Underlining India's role in providing Covid-19 vaccinations to several countries, Jaishankar said even before the pandemic India was involved in humanitarian assistance, disaster resistance to all. “We have demonstrated in a practical manner, our belief that the world is a family,” he said.

His remarks came in the backdrop of New Delhi supplying the covid vaccine to more than 80 countries. Moreover, more than 6.45 crore vaccines were exported as part of the Vaccine Maitri initiative.

Vaccine Maitri is a humanitarian initiative undertaken by India to provide Made-in-India COVID-19 vaccines to countries around the world. The government had started providing the vaccines to other



countries in January this year. Elaborating upon India's role, he said the government is practical and delivery-oriented.

“We delivered vaccines to a lot of countries. But even before the pandemic, if you look in terms of humanitarian assistance, whether it was an earthquake in Nepal, or a civil war in Yemen, or a cyclone in Mozambique, or a typhoon in Fiji, or a mudslide in Sri Lanka, or whether it is taking the Paris agenda forward through initiatives like the International Solar Alliance, or how to respond collectively towards disaster resilience,” he said.

The theme of the Raisina Dialogue organized by the ministry of external affairs and the Observer Research this year is “Viral World: Outbreaks, Outliers and Out of Control”.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame and Prime Minister of Denmark, Mette Frederiksen and Prime Minister of Australia, Scott Morrison, will also participate in the conference.

The three-day Raisina Dialogue starting Tuesday will have 50 sessions with the participation of 150 speakers from 50 countries and multilateral organizations.

NHAI makes deployment of NSV must to improve road quality

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central road making agency, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on Tuesday said it has made deployment of Network Survey Vehicle (NSV) mandatory to ensure a better quality of roads. The NSV uses a high-resolution camera to capture images of highways and has several other features.

In line with its commitment to provide better roads to commuters, NHAI has decided to deploy Network Survey

Vehicle (NSV) to enhance the quality of the National Highways. Carrying out road condition survey using NSV on the National Highways has been made mandatory at the time of certifying completion of the project and every six months thereafter,’ NHAI said in a statement.

The provision has also been included as a part of the standard bidding document of consultancy services. “The deployment will help in enhancing the overall quality of the highways as NSV uses the

latest survey techniques such as a high-resolution digital camera for 3,600 imagery, record images/videos at regular intervals, laser road profilometer and other related technology for the measurement of distresses in road surface,” it said.

The statement said NSV will also help to collate data to analyse the road condition including measurement of the road surface, surface cracking, potholes and patches. Apart from this, NSV will also provide data insights relating to

side drains, road furniture, etc.

The data collected through NSV survey shall be uploaded on NHAI's Artificial Intelligence-based portal Data Lake, where it will be analysed by Road Asset Management Cell (RAMS Cell) to assess the condition/roughness of the road to prioritise for the maintenance.

The data will help in maintaining up-to-date asset inventory and road assets condition status, the statement said. Apart from delivering vital information on road network planning,

providing relevant information on other aspects such as the development of road safety measures, etc. It will also assist in developing Highway maintenance strategies, analysis of maintenance and selection of optimal maintenance regime, it said.

The data collected through NSV surveys will highlight deficiencies in road conditions, prompting BOT (build, operate, transfer) operators/NHAI officials to take corrective steps to bring the road condition to the desired

level, NHAI said. This will further result in better upkeep of National Highways, leading to more comfort and better travel experience for Highway users, it added.

The data collected through NSV survey shall be uploaded on NHAI's Artificial Intelligence-based portal Data Lake, where it will be analysed by Road Asset Management Cell (RAMS Cell) to assess the condition/roughness of the road to prioritise for maintenance



BJP will solve Gorkha issue after win: Shah

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

In a significant statement Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said that the long-pending Gorkha problem would be solved after the BJP came to power in Bengal.

Saying that the Indian Constitution had “vast” possibilities Shah told a public rally that all problems could be solved within the frame work of it.

“It is a promise being made by me that a permanent political solution to the Gorkha problem will be reached once there is a double-engine government of the BJP in place ... once there is a BJP Government in Bengal with the one in the Centre you will not have to resort to agitations

BENGAL POLLS

anymore,” the Home Minister said without however mentioning the kind of problem he was referring to.

On the implementation of the National Register for Citizens he said that though it was not immediately being considered by the Centre it would never in future affect the Gorkhas upon its implementation.

“The Government is not thinking a NRC for now... But even if in future it is done Gorkhas will not have to worry about it because they are as good a citizen of this country as I am... They are the pride of India,” he said.

Attacking Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for putting a

“full stop” on the developmental works in Darjeeling, he said “no development work is done here ... only the TMC leaders use this place for holidaying.” Saying that the BJP Government would give “amnesty” to all those against whom criminal cases had been lodged by the TMC Government Shah said that “by lodging criminal cases against some of the Gorkha leaders Didi has tried to ruin the cordial relationship between the BJP and Gorkhas ... but that plan will never succeed.”

Shah on Tuesday held a number of rallies in North Bengal including Islampur and Dhupguri.

Pak intruder crosses IB in J&K, held

New Delhi: The Border Security Force (BSF) on Tuesday apprehended a Pakistani national who crossed the International Border (IB) near RS Pura sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The 40-year-old, who identified himself as Shabbir during preliminary inquiry, was held while he was making a desperate attempt to cross the fence. “BSF troopers observed the suspicious movement of the Pakistani national who had crossed the IB near BP No 942. He was warned to stop but did not pay any attention,” the BSF said in a statement.

Shabbir was subsequently fired upon due to which he sustained a minor injury.

The BSF troopers later apprehended Shabbir and handed him over to the police.

The BSF is responsible for guarding the 3,323 km India-Pakistan and 4,096 km India-Bangladesh borders. **IAN5**

Woman hangs self as in-laws make video

Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh): In a shocking incident, a family lined up outside a window to shoot a video even as their daughter-in-law hanged herself to death inside. The family even shared the video on the social media to “absolve” themselves of any complicity in the crime.

The parents of the deceased, Komal, have alleged that her husband’s family had been hounding her for dowry, which forced her to take the drastic step.

The woman’s father-in-law and mother-in-law have been arrested while her husband, Ashish, and her brother-in-law are on the run.

In the video, even as Komal is seen preparing to hang herself, the in-laws wait outside.

She can be seen tying a noose around a beam lining the asbestos roof. She is seen gasping as she ties the stole around her neck and tests the grip so it does not give way.

As she lets go and hangs herself, a man’s voice says, “Apne aap latak rahi hai (she hanged herself on her own).”

The man’s voice is presumably that of her father-in-law. Confirming the video had been shot from outside the room where she hanged herself, SP (city) Arpit Vijayvargiya said, “They had tried to stop her from killing herself.” Her parents, however, had a different story to tell. Komal and Ashish got married in September 2019. “I had given Rs 5 lakh and a bike to his family at the time. But his father Devendra, mother Savita and brother Sachin were not happy. About six months ago, they beat up Komal and drove her out of the house. The elders of the village sent her back,” the father of the deceased, Anil Kumar, said in his complaint to the police. **IAN5**

Amid Covid surge, Assam gears up for Bihu festivals

Guwahati: Amid the Covid-19 surge, the people of Assam are geared up to celebrate “Bohag Bihu” or “Rongali Bihu”, the beginning of the Assamese New Year, even as the Government imposed various Covid-related restrictions.

The number of Covid-19 cases have shot up by 732 per cent since the declaration of the three-phase Assembly elections held on March 27, April 1 and April 6.

According to the Assam health department, the Covid active cases were only 287 on February 26, when the Election Commission had declared the poll schedule for the 126-member Assam Legislative Assembly. The number of active cases climbed to 2,387 till Monday night, registering a 732 per cent hike. Bihu organising committees in Assam criticised the state government after it had issued a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) last week to curb large gatherings in view of the rising pandemic.

Limiting the number of participants in each event, the SOPs made it mandatory for the Bihu committees to obtain prior permission for organising the events and wind them up by 11 p.m. every night. Demanding to continue the celebrations until 1 a.m. in the night, Brihatar Guwahati Bihu Sammilani Samannay Raksha Samiti advisor, Kailash Nath Sarma, said the government could not force the SOPs on the Bihu organisers.

“Traditionally, the Bihu celebrations start late evening and continue till the early morning hours. The Assam government must relax the SOPs,”

Sarma told the media.

Three Bihus are the main festivals in Assam -- ‘Rongali’ or ‘Bohag Bihu’ observed in mid-April, ‘Kongali’ or ‘Kati Bihu’ observed in mid-October and ‘Bhogali’ or ‘Magh Bihu’ in mid-January. The ‘Rongali Bihu’ is the most important and colourful of the three, celebrating the spring festival. All the three Bihu festivals could not be celebrated last year due to the Covid situation and agitation against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act.

Assam’s week long spring festival, ‘Rongali Bihu’ would start on Wednesday with the first day being dedicated to cattle. Before the actual ‘Rongali’ starts on Thursday, the ‘Garu Bihu’ would be observed on Wednesday when all the households in villages bathe their cows by the riverside, followed by songs and merry-making.

Women will make various delicacies, besides ‘pithas’ (rice cakes) while the markets are flooded with hundreds of traditional food items along with clothes to celebrate the festival. Shoppers, especially women, throng the markets to buy their favourite clothes to mark the tradition of wearing new clothes on the first day of ‘Bohag’.

The people also exchange various gifts, including the traditional ‘Gamocho’ (a white piece of cloth with a red border having a customary pattern), with their near and dear ones as a mark of love.

Dance, cultural functions and songs are the main attractions of the ‘Rongali Bihu’.

Man rapes Class XII girl for 2 years in UP on false promise of marriage

PRADEEP SAXENA ■ ALIGARH

A case of raping a student for two years, later aborting and assaulting her has come to light in the Kwarsi area. Police has registered a case and sent the accused to jail. Police is searching for other accused in the case.

The girl from the village in the bypass area is a student of class 12 in a private college in the city. On her way to school, she met a young man from her area and fell in love. The young man also formed a relationship with her by pretending to get married. She was raped

for two years by putting her in a live-in relationship in the name of getting married. Meanwhile, when the woman became pregnant, she was taken to a private hospital and aborted. Later, the young man refused to marry the woman. The woman alleges that when she went to the young man’s house, his family members also beat her up and drove her away. According to Inspector kwarsi, a case has been registered against the accused’s family, Sunil Kumar, his father Rajveer, mother Lalles, etc including six family members. Sunil has been arrested and sent to jail.

Fake corona reports to avoid election duty

Aligarh: In order to avoid the duty of three-tier panchayat elections, the employees have devised a unique way of pretending to be corona infected. For this, they are also making reports of corona getting infected. 17 such cases have been caught so far, in which fake reports of corona have come to light. All these reports have been issued in the name of private labs. The District Magistrate has ordered action against those who are avoiding the duty and committing fraud.

Training for three-tier panchayat elections has started. Many employees are missing from this training. Many have reported for themselves and their families to be corona infected for this.

Baba Saheb’s vision on social democracy strikes mind

BY KALRAJ MISHRA, GOVERNOR, RAJASTHAN

Whenever I think of Baba Saheb Ambedkar’s thoughts and his sublime vision, his works for social democracy strike the mind. It is not a coincidence that Baba Saheb Ambedkar gave his address keeping social democracy at the center when the last meeting of the Constituent Assembly was held.

He said that the caste system and democracy cannot coexist. That is why the Indian constitution introduced such rules that there is no discrimination on the basis of caste and language for the citizens living in any part of the country.

I believe that any nation is formed by combining its traditions, culture, religion, castes and languages. Therefore, nationalism has no place for parochialism. The main task of proving the provisions of the draft and their justification in the Constituent Assembly was only on Dr Ambedkar and other Drafting Committee members.

On Ramzan eve, Maha mosque turns into blood donation camp

IAN5 ■ BEED (MAHARASHTRA)

In an unusual but welcome step on the Eve of the holy Ramzan month, a mosque in Maharashtra’s Beed became the venue for a blood donation camp as the state grapples with a huge shortage of blood, an organiser said on Tuesday.

The blood donation camp was organised by the Students Islamic Organisation (SIO) of India at the Takiya Mosque in which hundreds of people voluntarily participated, Rafid Shahad, Maharashtra South SIO Zonal Secretary, said.

From the drive conducted all day on Monday, the SIO collected around 150 units of blood which will be handed over to the authorities, said SIO member Khizer Shaikh.

SIO South Maharashtra Zonal President Salman Khan said that the organisation has carried out similar blood donation drives in the wake of the severe blood shortages experienced in Maharashtra since the past few weeks.

“We have conducted around a dozen similar camps in Mumbai, Thane, Latur, Jalna, Solapur, and Beed and collected around 500 units of blood. We have appealed to the Muslim community to

They assured that all Covid and safety protocols are strictly followed for the blood donation drives and over the next few weeks, many more such camps shall be held across the state

come forward for the humanitarian cause on the Ramzan eve and they have responded in large numbers,” he said.

Other SIO volunteers pointed out that during the holy month of fasting, Muslims around the world get into a spiritual and charitable mode and blood donation is one noble way of assisting the government in the ongoing Covid pandemic challenge with the huge scarcity of blood in the state.

They assured that all Covid and safety protocols are strictly followed for the blood donation drives and over the next few weeks, many more such camps shall be held across the state.

The state is currently in the grip of a blood shortage and appeals have gone out from Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray, Health Minister Rajesh Tope, Housing Minister Jitendra Awhad, Congress President Nana Patole and others asking people to come forward and donate blood or organise blood donation camps.

UP Minister warns of lockdown amid Covid surge in State

Lucknow: A day after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that he would not impose a lockdown, state Minister Brajesh Pathak on Tuesday categorically said that a lockdown could be imposed in Lucknow if Covid cases continued to surge.

In a letter to the Additional Chief Secretary Health and Principal Secretary Health, Pathak, who holds the law portfolio, said that he is getting calls for help due to lack of resources at hospitals but he is ‘unable to help out’.

He alleged that no one picks up the phone at the chief medical officer’s office and went on to underline that beds should be increased in hospitals to attend patients.

He added that hospitals should ramp up testing as well. The letter, marked ‘confidential’, is going viral on the social media.

The Minister stated in his letter that strict measures are needed to bring the situation under control and that a lockdown cannot be ruled out if it shows no improvement.

“It is unfortunate that private hospitals have reduced testing. There is a need of 17,000 testing kits, whereas only 10,000 are available,” Pathak said in the letter.

He also mentioned the case of historian Yogesh Praveen who died because the ambulance did not reach him on time.

15,000 UP schools switch over to English medium

Lucknow: The Uttar Pradesh Government has converted 15,000 primary and upper primary schools into English medium, with a view to modernise the education system.

The move is aimed at honing English speaking skills of children studying in the government schools, right from the beginning, so that they can compete with missionary and convent school students.

Nearly 1.83 crore children are studying in more than 1.5 lakh primary and upper primary schools in the state.

In Lucknow alone, around 60 primary and upper primary schools have been converted into English medium schools.

In every block, two or three schools have been developed much like the private schools.

Director, basic education department, Sarvendra Vikram Singh said the hard work and dedication of teachers to equip students of these primary and upper primary schools with English speaking skills has already started

FIR against 3 Bihar MLAs for violating Covid norms

IAN5 ■ PATNA

The Bihar Police have registered an FIR against three MLAs from the opposition parties for violating Covid norms in Rohtas district, an official said.

Shyam Sunder Rai, the circle officer of the Nasriganj in Rohtas district confirmed the development.

The FIR registered against Anita Chaudhary, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MLA from Nokha and a former minister; Arun Singh, the CPI-ML MLA from Karakat, Vijay Kumar Mandal, RJD MLA from Dinara in Rohtas district.

The three legislators went to the Baradih village under Nasriganj police station to participate in a political event on Monday evening. The event was organized by RJD veteran leader Ram Nath Yadav. Besides them, a number of local public representatives and leaders of Rohtas district also participated in the event.

“As a duty magistrate, I found that majority of leaders are not wearing face masks and not maintaining social distancing norms. As the second wave of corona is at its peak, there is a possibility of it spreading further. Hence, I have lodged a complaint with the concerned police station against them,” Rai said.

“We have also learnt that the organizer had not taken permission from the district administration for the event,” Rai said.

paying dividends as they are competing with children of the private schools today.

According to him these schools boast of smart class, beautiful classrooms and ‘most importantly, the school children now speak English.’

The Uttar Pradesh government provides free books, uniforms, bags, shoes and socks as well as sweaters in winter for students.

The state government of the day has also renovated 1.39 lakh schools under ‘Operation Kayakalp’ to offer better academic facilities to the students.

Two to three schools in every block of the state have been developed on the lines of English medium schools.

According to Vandana Srivastava, teacher in-charge of Primary School, Hirapur, Barabanki, her school features among the top schools of the block. The school has also been awarded by the government for its achievements, she added.

Folk artists across TN protest over curbs on temple festivals

IAN5 ■ CHENNAI

Folk artistes across Tamil Nadu continued their protest for the second day on Tuesday over restrictions on temple festivals amid the surge in the number of Covid-19 cases in the southern state. Their main demand is that the festivals must be allowed with a cap on the number of people participating in them.

The folk artistes were expecting a good season, but the second wave of the pandemic has thrashed their hopes.

P. Velmanikyam, the secretary of the Tirunelveli unit of folk artistes, told IANS, “After a total lockdown last year, we were expecting a good season this to make up for the losses. Unfortunately, it is not to be. We demand that the government should restrict the num-

B. Ravichandran of the folk artistes welfare association in Nagapattinam told IANS, ‘The amount given by the state government is a pittance, which we used to earn for a single performance in one night. The government should come forward and relax the restrictions’

ber of people coming to the temples by putting a cap on it, as a complete ban is totally unfounded.”

The Madras High Court had directed the state government to provide a minimum assistance to the folk artistes at the rate of Rs 2,000 per person in view of the Covid-19 pan-

demic, following which the Tamil Nadu government had distributed money to 6,810 registered folk artistes in the state.

The move came after the folk artistes who were not members of the Folk Artistes Welfare Board had moved the court seeking to include them in the list of beneficiaries.

The court accepted the prayer of the unorganised folk artistes and had directed the state government to pay one-time assistance to them, thus paving the way for the assistance to reach 6,810 folk artistes.

The beneficiaries include the practitioners of Nada Swaram, Therukoothu, Mangala Isai and other popular folk arts.

B. Ravichandran of the folk artistes welfare association

in Nagapattinam told IANS, “The amount given by the state government is a pittance, which we used to earn for a single performance in one night. The government should come forward and relax the restrictions.”

The folk artistes took out a protest march before the Collectorate in Madurai on Tuesday demanding an assistance of Rs 20,000 or relaxation of the restrictions so that they don’t starve.

Sundaram Kalyan, a renowned Therukoothu artiste who launched the march, said, “We demand the state government to provide us an assistance of a minimum of Rs 20,000 or please be kind enough to relax the restrictions on temple festivals. Please allow the festivals but with a restriction on the number of people attending them.”

Bihar reports spike in Covid cases, recovery rate dips to 93%

Patna: The recovery rate of Covid-19 patients continues to decline after a rapid spike in the number of infected persons in Bihar.

The state’s recovery rate was recorded at more than 99 per cent during March, which has now slumped to 93 per cent. According to the health department, the infection-free rate has declined after the rise in the number of infected persons, which has brought down the recovery rate.

According to data released by the health department, the recovery rate of Covid-infected persons has declined by three per cent in the last five days. According to the data, 85,050 samples were tested in the state on April 7, of which 1,527 were detected to be new infected cases. The infection rate in the

state was 1.79 per cent on this day, while the recovery rate was 97.24 per cent.

According to the health department data, the state recorded an infection-free rate of 99.23 per cent on March 20, registering a steady decline. On March 25, the infection-free rate had fallen to 99.06 per cent, which further reduced to 98.81 per cent on March 31.

As per the state health data, the infection-free rate was recorded at 96.68 per cent on April 8, while it fell to 96.03 per cent on April 9 and 95.13 per cent on April 10. On April 11, the figure further plunged to 94.24 per cent.

On April 12, 80,018 samples were tested, detecting 2,999 new infected persons. As many as 636 people returned to their homes after recovering from the

virus Thus, the recovery rate in the state reached 93.48 per cent on Monday, said a health department official.

The number of active patients has also registered an increase due to the decline in the rate of recovery from the infection. In Patna, 289 micro-containment zones have been created after the number of infected persons increased.

The number of infected cases is said to be more in urban areas than rural areas. The number of micro-containment zones in Patna Sadar division is 163, while the number of micro-containment zones in Paliganj is only nine. Health Minister Mangal Pandey said instructions have been issued to increase the number of beds for corona patients in all hospitals in the state.

Covid surge continues unabated in J&K, 1,269 new cases logged

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday logged the highest single day spike in its Covid-19 tally as 1,269 new cases and three deaths were recorded during last 24 hours.

Officials said that of the new cases, 582 were from the Jammu division and 687 from the Kashmir division while 493 patients were discharged from different hospitals after recovery.

So far, 140,650 people have been infected with coronavirus in J&K out of which 129,932 have recovered, and 2,037 have succumbed.

The number of active cases is 8,681 out of which 3,267 are from the Jammu division and 5,414 from the Kashmir division.



www.dailypioneer.com

facebook.com/dailypioneer | @TheDailyPioneer | instagram.com/dailypioneer/

PAPER WITH PASSION

Double mutant strikes

More genomic testing on the virus must be done; the new strains are pushing India to the brink

A few weeks ago, in a press release the Government announced that a wholly new strain — which it dubbed the “double mutant” — had emerged in India. This was so called because not one major mutation but two mutations to the spike protein that allows the COVID-19 virus to bind to cells had been found. Few further details have emerged since then but epidemiologists believe that this variation could potentially be much more infectious, just like the strains from Brazil, South Africa and the UK have proved to be. And in the first two weeks of April, it is almost certain; albeit until enough genomic testing of the strains infecting Indians is conducted, one cannot positively state this; that the new strains, possibly the “double mutant” strain itself is behind the exponential rise in Coronavirus cases across the country. In fact, India now has the dubious distinction of being the second worst-hit nation in the world as the climbing numbers have relegated Brazil to the third place in the global Corona rankings. ‘The Attack of the Double Mutant’ seems like an apt name for a 1950s campy Hollywood movie but, make no mistake, it appears to be very real right now. And one cannot rest on the fact that these new mutations of the virus that first emerged in Wuhan, China, are less deadly than the original. The fact is that a lower fatality rate is negated when absolute numbers are



extremely high, like they are right now. As a result, not only are the cases hitting highs like never before, so are the fatalities.

What should be extremely concerning to the health authorities and the Governments at both the Centre and the States is that the vaccines being administered to millions of Indians every week have not yet been thoroughly tested for their efficacy against the new strains, particularly the “double mutant”. We still are unsure whether Covishield or Covaxin, or even the recently approved Sputnik V or other vaccines approved for usage elsewhere in the world, such as the mRNA-based Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, will be effective against the new strain, either in reducing its virulence or the seriousness of the disease. Despite stories emerging of crematoriums running at capacity and their equipment failing or melting, life appears to continue apace in India. In fact, the celebrations at Haridwar for the Kumbh Mela are a sign that many Indians would rather put their faith in divine intervention rather than the Government. And with the Government leaders campaigning full-time in West Bengal and elsewhere, who can blame only the religious devotees? India is witnessing a record number of new cases daily, but is yet to exceed the 1,290 daily deaths recorded on September 15, 2020. However, at the current pace, that might only be a matter of time before we see that happening. Particularly, once the Kumbh Mela gets over and the devotees head back home, spreading the pernicious virus across the length and breadth of India.

PICTALK



Migrants await their turn to board home-bound trains amid the spike in COVID-19 cases, in Mumbai

PTI

Show some poise

The Cooch Behar tragedy underscores the need for all stakeholders to exercise restraint in words and actions

It is the Election Commission’s (EC) responsibility to conduct “free and fair” elections; however, its role often comes under the scanner of the parties in the poll fray; it is accused of being biased, undemocratic and selective in cracking down on the violators of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). Not only this, the “impartiality” of the apex poll body is questioned every now and then, right from the first stage of setting up the voting dates. The Opposition accuses it of “dancing to the tune” of the regime at the Centre and “managing” the election dates that best suit the ruling party. Even after the results, the losing parties and candidates cry foul that the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were rigged. Most of these charges against the credibility of an independent, constitutional body are unfounded and only part of the politics of subterfuge. Unfortunately, however, such manoeuvres have become the hallmark of elections these days. The happenings in West Bengal, where the EC has slapped a 24-hour campaign ban

on Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee for “instigating the voters” and making “highly insinuating and provocative remarks”, are no exception.

The poll panel’s order drew sharp reactions not only from the TMC but also from the Congress and the CPM — all these parties are in the Opposition at the Centre — with Mamata sitting on a dharna at the Gandhi Murti in Kolkata. It appears that Didi is playing all her cards — from wheelchair politics to dharna politics — to prevent the BJP from wresting power from the TMC in its bastion. Citing similar reasons, the EC has banned the BJP’s Rahul Sinha from campaigning for 48 hours for his remark that the Central forces should have shot more people in Sitalkuchi. It also issued notices to Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh for his controversial remarks. There should be a detailed inquiry into what instigated a mob to threateningly advance towards the CISF personnel on poll duty in Cooch Behar that subsequently led to four civilian deaths. Earlier, Mamata had asked the State’s people to gherao the Central forces. While the EC is working to the best of its ability, the politicians must also stop instigating people or making comments that potentially could disturb law and order in the politically-sensitive State. No matter who wins or loses the battle for Bengal, democracy must not be made to bleed.



India’s role in Myanmar crisis



RAVINDER PAL SINGH

The situation in our strife-torn neighbourhood is turning worse, with the military trying every trick in the book to cling to power

As a result of the Myanmar military’s (Tatmadaw’s) takeover of the political power and arrest of the elected representatives on February 1 this year, the people of Myanmar came out in thousands to demonstrate against the coup. The military claims that it took over the power under the State of Emergency clause of the 2008 Constitution (written by the military itself) because of an alleged electoral fraud. However, the Election Commission had declared the November 2020 elections as free and largely fair.

The court of public opinion pronounced its verdict through spontaneous demonstrations that have since early February claimed nearly 500 lives. People’s anger reveals that the military’s allegations are a mere pretext to take over the power to protect the illegitimate businesses of their family members, threatened by the Aung San Suu Kyi-led National League of Democracy’s (NLD) overwhelming success in the polls.

Though there were no cases of public unrest or breakdown in law and order to justify the Emergency and the military’s takeover, the military chief, Senior Gen Min Aung Hlaing, arrested the President and replaced him with his puppet Vice-President, who promptly declared Emergency for the military to take power. The elected representatives were prevented from taking the oath of office on February 1. Clearly, the coup by Senior Gen Min Aung Hlaing and other Generals was not against Suu Kyi but against the people of Myanmar.

The coup’s consequences have since played out via public protests and random shootings by troops who have been given a free hand to terrorise and coerce the population to surrender their basic rights. The seeds of the Tatmadaw gaining political clout in Myanmar stem from the first military coup in 1962. Following socio-political changes over the years, the Generals chose to allow elections under the 2008 Constitution. It



had nearly 35 provisions that allowed the military to hold primacy in political decision-making at the Central and provincial Government levels.

As large swathes of Myanmar’s territory were inhabited by around 18 major ethnic communities, with approximately 35 per cent of the population, the majority Barmar population inhabited the central fertile basins of the Irrawaddy and Salween rivers. The minorities since the 1960s raised their own Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) for self-protection, which gave the Tatmadaw the rationale to hold the centre stage of national integrity. The 2008 Constitution gave it political powers by holding 25 per cent of the seats in both national and regional/State Parliaments by the nominees of the Army chief, Senior Gen Min Aung Hlaing. In time, the Tatmadaw came to represent private business interests of the Generals and Colonels, not of the Myanmar people.

Moving to the events that unfolded rather quickly after the coup, the elected legislators on the military’s target fled the country. A group of legislators went underground and organised itself as the CRPH, or the

WHAT SHOULD AND COULD INDIA DO? EVEN IF THE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN A POLITIQUE APPROACH, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA AND THE FREE PRESS HAS TO STEP UP TO RESTORE DEMOCRATIC PEACE AND HUMANITARIAN RELIEF TO THE TROUBLED REFUGEES FLEEING MYANMAR

Committee Representing Pyidaungsi Hluttaw (Parliament). The military, to control the civilian protests, has generally followed the strategy of closing down mobile phone communications and the internet, declaration of Emergency and martial law to arrest protesters without trial, and shock and awe by random killings of protesters. Of late, a change has been noticed in its strategy. It has started bombings ethnic villages to provoke reactions from the main EAOs. This would aim to justify the military’s intervention as the protector of the majority Barmars.

What are the options for civil society in Myanmar, with its elected leaders and the EAOs being attacked by the Tatmadaw? Its main argument to retain military control is that the EAOs want to splinter Myanmar into ethno-territorial identities.

Interviewed by the *Al Jazeera* on March 27, NLD legislator Sarsa (now in hiding) sought global help in providing alternative strategies to put Myanmar back on the path of lasting democratic peace and stability. UN Special Rapporteur Tom Andrews, however, was unable to offer

any alternative solution. A similar expression of helplessness and outrage has been made by the UN Secretary, the US President, the EU and the Asean countries.

The international community needs to take the ongoing violence in Myanmar not as a conflict resolution issue fit for negotiations, but as a problem of the flawed Constitution. This flaw is a deliberate design by the Myanmar Generals to permanently snatch their people’s sovereign rights at the point of their weapons.

So, what should and could India do as a neighbour, as a democracy and as a member of the UN Security Council? Even if the Government has taken a politique approach, the people of India and the free press has to step up to restore democratic peace and humanitarian relief to the troubled refugees fleeing Myanmar.

(The writer is a military veteran, who is a former Senior Fellow at the Institute for Defence Studies & Analyses, New Delhi, and Ford Fellow at the School of Public Affairs, University of Maryland. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOVERNMENT MUST RESET ITS PRIORITIES

Sir — Amid reports of an alarming spread of the infection and COVID treatment centres running out of beds and ventilators, the startling news that India’s daily rise in cases outnumbered the US-Brazil’s total is yet to be understood for its incisiveness. With India overtaking Brazil as the second worst-hit country, the abject failure of the Government in handling the pandemic as it assumes unmanageable proportions is starkly evident.

With India as one of the major exporters of the vaccines to poor countries, it comes as a surprise that the accusations against, and denials by, the Government over the shortage of vaccines are grabbing headlines now! The disparity among citizens quite obviously undermines people’s compliance with the epidemic containment policies of the country such as social distancing and staying at home. One can well understand the reticence shown by those from the weaker economic strata of the society in defying the safety protocols put in place by the administration. They have to go out and work! While showing concern for the lives and livelihood of its citizens, mere rhetoric by its leaders will not serve any purpose.

Lockdowns are never an answer and the cascading effect of the one imposed in March last year continues to be felt even today. This is amply evident in the Government’s reactions as well. A lockdown is a very unpleasant option and one that the Government should not rush into. But it is amazing that despite the COVID fears, the Government has had no qualms in permitting public gatherings and allowing the staging of special events which have had a traditional appeal for the people of the country for centuries.

Pachu Menon | Goa

ENSURE THAT NO MIGRATION TAKES PLACE

Sir — As the new variants are taking a heavy toll on human lives and the active cases are on the rise, people in metro cities like Mumbai are panicking and the migrant

Jawans took the right decision



This refers to the editorial ‘No golden rule’ (April 13). I concur with the editorial view that security personnel at the polling booth had no other practical option to control the advance of a mob of 200-300 people except to fire to kill. In self-defence, security personnel shoot to kill as the last resort. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her cohorts have described it as “genocide” and have gone to the extent of saying that it could have been avoided by firing below the waist or at legs. One can only laugh at such nonsensical suggestions which are far

from practicality.

The editorial has verily repudiated their contention, saying that the action was called for as any use of mild force would have further provoked the mob instead of acting as a deterrent. The security officers are not at all at fault as is being told by Mamata and the TMC. She has preferred to keep mum on the murder of an 18-year-old boy, a BJP worker, by the TMC goons the same day, who was exercising his franchise for the first time. The Election Commission had rightly announced elections in Bengal in eight phases, which was opposed by Didi vehemently. Had these elections been held in three or four phases, the TMC would have carried out a bloodbath on Bengal’s roads. It is because of this reason the Election Commission has proved itself to be a *bete noire* of Didi. It seems that the conduct of elections in a peaceful manner doesn’t suit Mamata and her party as she wants to create ruckus, violence and anarchy to win elections.

Sagar Singh | Muzaffarnagar

workers are fleeing the city fearing a complete lockdown. After the complaints about the shortage of vaccines, it is expected that the equilibrium will be brought in by the weekend but the States are lacking in implementation. Soon after a lockdown was imposed across India in March 2020, the country saw an unprecedented humanitarian crisis with over 10 million migrant workers returning to their hometowns.

A year later, a similar story is unfolding in Maharashtra. The State Government and the Centre must take care that such a situation is not repeated and make adequate arrangements for migrant workers. The people are not ready for another lockdown.

OK Ramanathan | Coimbatore

THINGS CAN GO WRONG

Sir — The Japanese Government is going to release radioactive water used to cool the damaged Fukushima reactors into the

ocean. The water will be “cleaned” of the most dangerous radioactive materials. No, this is not the plot of the latest Godzilla movie, this is real life.

The powerful filter system is of course safe, although so was the reactor. Things can go wrong and a polluted, radioactive ocean would be another disaster. The other issue is that if the filter works perfectly, where will the Japanese Government store the highly reactive material for the next few years? There are so many worries about this development and the possible damage to our planet. A better solution must be found. The safety and security of all should be accorded the top priority.

Dennis Fitzgerald | Australia

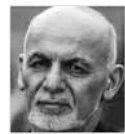
Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

Tributes to those martyred in the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. Their courage, heroism and sacrifice give strength to every Indian.



Prime Minister — Narendra Modi



Once again I am calling upon the Taliban to give up fighting and enmity, and observe

permanent ceasefire which is the demand of the people of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan President — Ashraf Ghani

I was not at all serious about my career and life plans. Just used to live an unplanned life till the time I stepped into the reality TV show *Bigg Boss*.



Actor — Arshi Khan



I want to be a bowler who takes responsibility for his side. Instead of being a burden, I consider this a privilege.

Cricketer — Harshal Patel

What a way to end the seventh year of the Modi-led NDA Government: Surging inflation, falling industrial output, declining rupee and plunging stock market.



Congress leader — P Chidambaram

FIRST COLUMN

TOWARDS GREEN LIVELIHOODS

One has to manage it with the strength gained from hindsight, verifiable data and the foresight of a savant



Basic human nature has not changed over the thousands of years that mankind has inhabited this planet. What has kept changing is its mode of expression. The primitive man first fought with bare hands, then with clubs, which was followed by sharp weapons like the spear and then came the catapult and the propulsion of stones. Firepower entered the scene and in came ammunition. Gradually, warfare moved from the land and sea to include the sky. The methods and the levels kept changing but the basics were the same. Typically, the methods of cooking and living changed, too. Distances shrank and time multiplied with the use of technology. Yet, basic emotions remained constant. The tribal world is a good example globally, of not just human nature remaining consistent but also their basic good sense remaining constant. This was in the preservation of the ecosystem and never taking more from it than was necessary for self-preservation and basic happiness. Rhythmic matching with nature enabled them to survive for multiple millennia without having to worry about sustainability.



Then there was the issue of civility. Consider how a community takes care of the old, infants, women and the infirm. Add to it the concern of the right to dignified transition from one phase of a life cycle to another. Perhaps these principles are so simple that almost all civil Governments seem to have responded in default. The time has come to change it and learn from the tribals. Indeed, tribes have paid heavily, in many places, where their pristine context and approach was ravaged by the so-called civilisation. These facts require a revision of the vantage point of perception. With Christopher Columbus pioneering the route to the Indies in 1492, it began the process which altered the character of the indigenous population by many interventions. Colonisation altered the character of the ecosystems they ventured into. Findings hold that this ushered in new vegetation which preserved heat. It trapped carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and this ushered in the 'little ice age.' Clearly, the future is sustainable when resources are preserved, added to and when life is assured, unimpeded. The future is assured when skills are there to assure livelihoods. The tribes represent a philosophy and value system which awaits deeper scholastic exploration to see, in how many ways, their learnings have value for mankind. A background in anthropology, history, systems dynamics and management links up that learning with observations in the field. These are, in turn, rooted in the academia and consulting world.

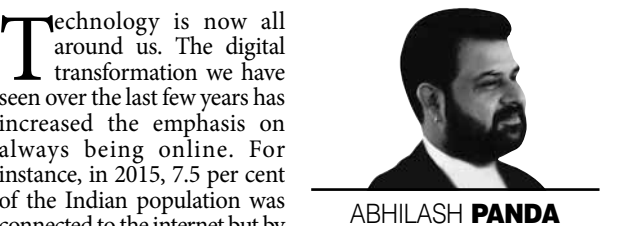
Building upon the classical backdrop of observations from Sanskrit literature, one can comment on tribal ways of maintaining livelihoods, health and well-being. This would also cover traditional means of livelihoods in the Third World. Making a case study of pockets in Asia, one can also establish how traditional modes of production and means of marketing are in high synergy with resource-based renewal and adequacy of economic well-being. Unfortunately, in many ways, Euro-centric modes of production originating from developed countries have jeopardised the full range of the natural resource base of this planet. Time is running out for including in the developmental model the option of strengthening the traditional modes of livelihood and production. This would imply strengthening of the conventional ways of harnessing produce; upscaling the time-tested approaches of nurturing livelihoods; reinforcing conventional role of markets as an economic force. A model of development to optimise on resources and happiness is feasible.

Without a clarity on the causative factors, the creation of a sustainable future may become a gamble. One has to manage it with the strength gained from hindsight, verifiable data and the foresight of a savant. (The writer is a well-known management consultant of international repute. The views expressed are personal.)

How resilient is our digital world is the big question

The COVID-19 pandemic shows that digital connectivity is critical to societal resilience and business continuity in the times of crisis

Technology is now all around us. The digital transformation we have seen over the last few years has increased the emphasis on always being online. For instance, in 2015, 7.5 per cent of the Indian population was connected to the internet but by 2019, this percentage increased to 34 per cent, according to the World Bank data. Indian mobile users consume 8.3 gigabytes of data each month on an average and India is digitising faster than any other country. Digital transformation has opened the doors to alleviating poverty, creating opportunities and monitoring and improving emergency response. But it has also added a new layer of vulnerability. A single disaster caused by natural hazards could lead to serious damage to critical information systems and trigger the failure of entire networks. Not only our banks, air-



The writer is head, Infrastructure Resilience, & deputy for Intergovernmental and Partnerships Branch, UNDRR. The views expressed are personal.

Direct payments: Why is it an issue in Punjab?

The State should amend the Agricultural Produce and Livestock Markets Act, 2017, to make payment to farmers actually direct and not through the commission agents

The issue of direct payments to farmers for their produce, as it happens in most other States, would be a non-issue to begin with, if it was not in the context of Punjab. Any buyer has the right to pay the way s/he wishes and the seller agrees, including the latter having the right to receive payment directly from the buyer. It is, in fact, laughable to learn that in Punjab, the payment for farm produce even by the Government agencies like the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has been made in the Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) *mandi* system through the *kacha arhatiya* (commission agent). The Government of India (GOI) had been requesting the State to streamline its procurement and payment procedures in line with the Centre's guidelines of direct online payment to farmers and in compliance with the Public Finance Management System (PFMS), since 2018. The State had time and again sought extensions for various reasons. The FCI would like to remove the *arhatiya* from the acquisition process to lower its costs of procurement. For instance, for the first time, the Cotton Corporation of India Limited (CCI) was able to make direct payments to cotton farmers during the last kharif season without paying a commission to *arhatiyas* in Punjab, after the new farm Acts came into force, before being put on hold by the top court.

Even the Punjab Government had, until now, not allowed the central agencies to pay directly to farmers, irrespective of the party in power. The previous Government in Punjab, through the 2013 amendment to the APMC Act, had made it optional for growers to receive payments directly when farmer unions demanded it. But the farmer had to give this in writing at least 45 days before the start of the procurement season for paddy or wheat, if s/he wanted payment directly. However, this amendment did not deal with payments for other agri produce and left it to the farmer giving an oral option at the time of auction. But in 2017, the State Government amended the APMC Act to provide for these farmer payments to be indirect, through the *arhatiyas*, wherein the agent gets the payment for the farmer's produce and deposits it in the grower's account.

Interlocking: The *arhatiya* associations claim that they lend without a collateral and recover their payments from sale proceeds paid by the FCI to them for the farmer's produce. However, they realise that they would not be able to interlock the farm inputs, credit and produce markets anymore, as they have in the past, if payments for produce are made directly to the farmers. But, the *arhatiyas* only get a licence to facilitate purchase and sale of agricultural produce (called *kacha arhatiya*), and their other business i.e. money lending to farmers is informal and illegal. They interlock this credit market with produce payments when public agencies procure at the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and recover their payments. They also charge interest ranging from 18-36 per cent on such loans, depending on the credit rating of the farmers. The *arhatiya* also charges interest on interest on the unpaid loan besides on the outstanding principal after every season. Thus, there are multiple methods of exploitation of the farmer by the *arhatiya*.

However, this interlocking is problematic mainly for the small and marginal farmers, as large growers are able to avoid it. Though farmers have Kisan



THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAD BEEN REQUESTING THE STATE TO STREAMLINE ITS PROCUREMENT AND PAYMENT PROCEDURES IN LINE WITH THE CENTRE'S GUIDELINES OF DIRECT ONLINE PAYMENT TO FARMERS AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PUBLIC FINANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, SINCE 2018. THE STATE HAD TIME AND AGAIN SOUGHT EXTENSIONS FOR VARIOUS REASONS

The writer is a professor at the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. The views expressed are personal.



Credit Cards (KCCs) or Cash Credit Limit (CCL) from banks and the Primary Agricultural Credit Society (PACS), but when they are not able to repay the crop loans at the end of the season, it is the *arhatiya* who steps in and lends to farmers to prevent them from defaulting for the next season. The farmers then borrow again from the bank/PACS after the repayment to the bank/PACS and repay the loan to the *arhatiya*. Thus, the *arhatiya* helps farmers from turning into defaulters. The *arhatiyas* lend for even non-agricultural and social purposes and their cash credit limits for farmers is more open-ended unlike that of the banks.

Although there are *arhatiyas* in Punjab's fruit and vegetable *mandis* too, and they get five per cent commission compared with 2.5 per cent in grain markets, there is no MSP or public procurement for the crop produce sold in these *mandis*. Therefore, interlocking is not that widely prevalent in these markets as the *arhatiya's* risk in lending would be higher in the case of sales made without public purchase. The *arhatiya* associations in the past have asked their members not to lend to basmati paddy growers as that would be risky without the guarantee of repayment backed by public procurement at the MSP.

Leasee farmers: The grower unions, *arhatiya* unions and the State Government also claim that since there is large-scale leasing of land for farming for wheat and paddy (40-50 per cent land is leased informally), it would be difficult for leasee farmers to produce land records to sell at the MSP and claim payments. The State Government

also argues that the payment for the produce through the *arhatiya* is a legal mechanism under the APMC Act of Punjab. The Centre suggested that the State could follow the model of neighbouring Haryana where the details of tenants/share croppers can be uploaded on a portal with the disclaimer that this would not be a legal document for claiming ownership through tenancy. One of the reasons, other than the timing of the decision, for farmers and their unions not wanting direct payments is that they fear the bank would deduct outstanding or default loans from such payments.

The role of the State: This business of money lending is facilitated by the MSP and procurement of grain policy from the APMC markets. This enables the *arhatiyas* to lend without risk as their dues are recovered from the payments made by the buyers, including the FCI, to the *arhatiyas* and not the farmers. The norms for farm lending under priority sector lending (PSL) policies have been tweaked so that lending to agriculture is no longer about crops and farms alone; they include loans for agribusiness activities like cold storages, food processing and the like. Also, if banks can't lend to meet the target of the PSL, they can deposit the money in the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund and also buy priority sector loan accounts from other banks that have exceeded their targets.

Since the State has not conducted elections to the APMC bodies for decades, the *arhatiyas* are able to dominate the APMCs as the elected representative appointments are

made by nomination.

Solutions: If the *arhatiya* system is to end, Punjab needs to make arrangements for the direct purchase of produce from farmers and ensure payment to them through their own collective agencies, like PACS, co-operatives and producer companies as is being done in some of the other States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Odisha for public procurement of foodgrains. Haryana has given temporary APMC *mandi* commission agent licences to 380 FPOs and PDS ration depot holders this season in view of a strike by *arhatiya* in protest against the direct payment policy where 75 per cent of farmers have opted for it.

Unless small farmers are provided institutional finance access adequately and enabled to use the warehouse receipt system under which growers can obtain bank credit against their produce, they can't avoid the interlocked transactions by the *arhatiya*.

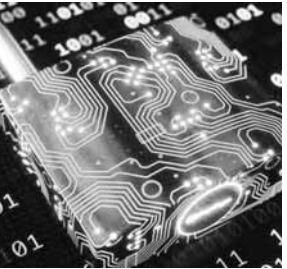
To resolve the issue of lack of land records with a large number of leasee farmers, Punjab should finalise the draft pro-corporate land leasing Bill with adequate amendments for making it pro-small farmer and make it into a law. Further, the State should amend the Agricultural Produce and Livestock Markets Act, 2017, to make direct payment to farmers actually direct and, not direct through the *arhatiya*! For the time being, as is reported to have been agreed between the State and the Centre, a verification of seller farmer as a producer of the crop by a revenue clerk or sarpanch would suffice.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

NOT FOUR BUT EIGHT PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE BEEN SHOT DEAD IN SITALKUCHI. —BJP LEADER RAHUL SINHA

THEIR LEADERS SAID EIGHT AND NOT FOUR PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED. THESE ARE THE LEADERS OF OUR COUNTRY. —WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE

ports and transport infrastructure are networked but increasingly energy, education, security, health and protective assets are intertwined through the cyber domain, too. The remotely-managed floodgates, early warning systems, waste management, social sites for crowd-sourcing, safety information and space technology for conducting damage assessment, among others, are now part of a connected system. The COVID-19 pandemic shows that digital connectivity is critical to societal resilience and business continuity in times of crisis. For digital infrastructure providers in developed and emerging markets, higher demand for connectivity may be counterbalanced by frequent negative shocks. For instance, take hurricane Harvey. Back in 2017 when the storm made landfall in Texas and caused more than a 100 deaths and



affected by inundation.

Cyber security threats are another major risk, which have already taken a toll on a few notable occasions. The 2015 cyberattack in Ukraine, which affected the electricity supply, and the 2017 Wannacry and NotPetyransomware, which heavily disrupted critical infrastructure services across Europe, are just a few instances.

The correlation of such complex events with the risk of malicious hazards, such as cyberattacks, may exacerbate the most vital of societal func-

tions including the authorities' capacity to mitigate the impact of these cascading events. In effect, cascading events make it difficult to estimate the extent of any single induced disruption, as many intervening variables may affect the outcome.

Such risks are compounded by the fact that many of the small and medium-sized companies on which much of the national economy relies are likely to come with their own cyber security-related vulnerabilities. Multiple studies indicate that Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) are identified as a clear target of cyberattacks and they are less able to withstand them. A 2019 study by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) identified that 43 per cent of SMEs are the target of cyberattacks. The current ambition to digitise as soon as possible as part of the SME recov-

ery and response to COVID-19 has increased the occurrence of cyberattacks. A 2020 McKinsey study estimates that spear-phishing attacks have increased seven-fold since the beginning of the pandemic.

To increase the resilience of digital infrastructure investments, it is necessary to monitor and measure their vulnerability, sensitivity, interdependency and exposure to risk. This shift requires investors, operators and decision-makers to make sure that disaster and climate risks are considered in the location, design, construction and operation of planned infrastructure investments.

For digital infrastructure to be classified as "sustainable," regulators need to include natural hazards as a key criterion as well as have a clear definition of resilience. For that, there is a need to explicitly require institutional investors and asset

managers, as well as infrastructure developers, to integrate disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and resilience into their decisions.

With trillions of dollars ready to be injected into the recovery from COVID-19, it is now the right time for the Government and the private sector to consider how best these investments can be resilient, green and equitable. In our rush to recover from COVID-19, we must not miss a golden opportunity to reduce the existing levels of risk and to avoid creating new ones. Sustainability and resilience are two sides of the same coin. Unsustainable infrastructure undermines the resilience of those who are dependent on its smooth functioning. It is time we address these critical issues and ask ourselves: Are we investing in resilience or obsolescence?

US calls for ‘pause’ on use of J&J vax

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The US is recommending a “pause” in using the single-dose Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccine to investigate reports of potentially dangerous blood clots.

In a joint statement Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration said they were investigating unusual clots that occurred 6 to 13 days after vaccination.

The clots occurred in veins that drain blood from the brain and occurred together with low platelets. All six cases were in women between the ages of 18 and 48; there was one death.

The reports appear similar to a rare, unusual type of clotting disorder that European authorities say is possibly linked to another COVID-19 vaccine not yet cleared in the U.S., from AstraZeneca.

More than 6.8 million doses of the J&J vaccine have been administered in the U.S., the vast majority with no or mild side effects.

Federally run mass vaccination sites will pause the use of the J&J shot, and states and other providers are expected to follow. The other two authorized vaccines, from Moderna and Pfizer, make up the vast

share of COVID-19 shots administered in the U.S. And are not affected by the pause.

“I’d like to stress these events appear to be extremely rare. However Covid-19 vaccine safety is a top priority,” FDA Acting Commissioner Janet Woodcock said at a news conference. “We expect it to be a matter of days for this pause.”

A CDC committee will meet Wednesday to discuss the cases and the FDA has also launched an investigation into the cause of the clots and low

Austria’s Health Min resigns, saying he’s overworked

Berlin: Austria’s Health Minister announced his resignation on Tuesday, saying that he couldn’t continue in the grueling job of helping lead the country’s coronavirus response because of persistent personal health problems caused by overwork.

Rudolf Anschober, 60, had been health minister since January 2020, when his Green party became the junior partner in a governing coalition under conservative Chancellor Sebastian Kurz. **AP**

platelet counts.

CDC’s Dr. Anne Schuchat said authorities have not seen similar clots after use of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, and that people should continue to get vaccinated with those shots.

The agencies are recommending that people who were given the J&J vaccine who are experiencing severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath within three weeks after receiving the shot contact their health care provider.

J&J delays vax rollout in Europe

Berlin: Johnson & Johnson says it is delaying the rollout of its coronavirus vaccine in Europe amid a US probe into rare blood clots. The company announced the decision Tuesday after regulators in the United States said they were recommending a “pause” in administration of the single-dose shot to investigate reports of potentially dangerous blood clots.

“We have been reviewing these cases with European health authorities,” the company said. “We have made the decision to proactively delay the rollout of our vaccine in Europe.” **AP**

Iran to enrich uranium to highest level ever

AP ■ DUBAI, UAE

An Iranian nuclear negotiator says Tehran will begin enriching uranium to 60% purity after an attack on its Natanz nuclear facility, higher than the program ever has before.

Abbas Araghchi made the comment Tuesday in Vienna. He was quoted by the state-run IRNA news agency.

Iran had been enriching up to 20%. That is a short technical step to weapons-grade levels.

The International Atomic Energy Agency did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Press TV, the Iranian state television’s English-language arm, separately said that the



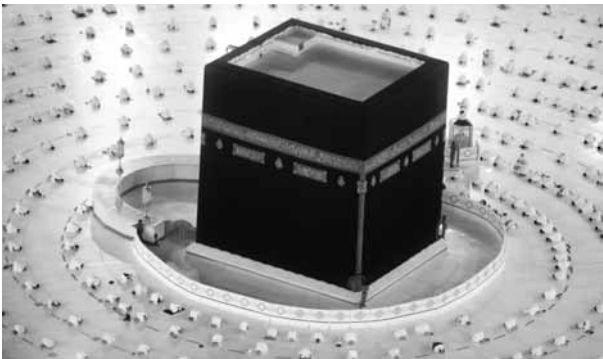
In this photo released by the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, right, and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov greet each other by touching elbows and wear face masks to curb the spread of COVID-19 prior to their talks in Tehran, Iran on Tuesday **AP**

IAEA had been informed of the move. It said the enrichment would begin as of Wednesday.

The broadcaster also quoted the negotiator as saying Iran would introduce another

1,000 centrifuges at Natanz, without elaborating.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. AP’s earlier story follows below. **DUBAI, United Arab**



Muslims pray during the first dawn prayers of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, around the Kaaba, the cubic building at the Grand Mosque, as they keep social distancing to help curb the spread of the coronavirus, in the Muslim holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia on Tuesday **AP**

WHO urges pause in market sale of captured live wild animals

AP ■ GENEVA

The United Nations’ health agency on Tuesday urged countries to suspend the sale of live animals captured from the wild in food markets as an emergency measure, saying wild animals are a leading source of emerging infectious diseases like the coronavirus.

The World Health Organisation, backed by key partners, issued new guidance saying that animals — particularly wild animals — “are the source of more than 70 percent of all emerging infectious diseases in humans, many of which are caused by novel viruses.”

Taiwan launches shipbuilding programme amid China threats

Kaohsiung (Taiwan): Taiwan launched an amphibious transport ship Tuesday that’s the first from its new naval shipbuilding programme begun as China escalates its threats to use military force to annex the island it claims is its territory.

President Tsai Ing-wen presided over the launching ceremony at a shipyard in the southern port city of Kaohsiung for the first in the series of ships intended as a defense against any Chinese invasion.

The ship is “designed and built in accordance with the needs of national defense combat training,” Tsai said.

Emirates (AP) — Iran’s foreign minister warned Tuesday that a weekend attack on its main nuclear enrichment site at Natanz could hurt ongoing negotiations over its tattered atomic deal with world powers.

Those talks are aimed at finding a way for the United States to re-enter the agreement, the goal of which is to limit Iran’s enrichment of uranium in exchange relief on sanctions.

The U.S. has insisted it had nothing to do with Sunday’s sabotage at the Natanz nuclear facility. Instead, Israel is widely believed to have carried out the assault that damaged centrifuges, though it has not claimed it. But Mohammad Javad Zarif still issued a warning to Washington.

NATO warns Russia over forces near Ukraine

Brussels: NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg expressed the Western military alliance’s “unwavering” support for Ukraine and warned Moscow on Tuesday not to push its troop buildup along Russia’s border with the neighbouring country.

“NATO stands with Ukraine,” Stoltenberg said during a news conference with Ukrainian Foreign Minister

GLOBE TROTTER

US TO LEAVE TROOPS IN AF BEYOND MAY, 9/11 NEW GOAL

Washington: President Joe Biden has decided to leave American troops in Afghanistan beyond the May 1 deadline negotiated with the Taliban by the Trump administration, and has set the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks as the new goal, US officials said.

5 MINERS DIE IN COAL MINE COLLAPSE IN AF

Kabul: A makeshift coal mine collapsed on Tuesday in northern Afghanistan, burying five miners and leaving four more missing, a provincial security official said. Jawed Bashaarat, a spokesman for the provincial police chief in northern Baghlan province said a rescue team is at the site.

Dmytro Kuleba, calling the Russian movements “unjustified, unexplained and deeply concerning.”

The comments came amid a rise in cease-fire violations in eastern Ukraine, where Russia-backed separatists and Ukrainian forces have been locked in a conflict since Moscow’s 2014 annexation of Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula. **AP**

Philippines summons Chinese ambassador over reef dispute

Manila: The Philippine government summoned the Chinese ambassador to press its demand for Chinese vessels to immediately leave a reef claimed by Manila in the South China Sea and said their presence was stoking tensions, officials said Tuesday.

The escalating feud between Manila and Beijing started after more than 200 Chinese vessels suspected by Philippine authorities to be operated by militias were spotted early last month at Whitsun Reef. **AP**

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Bishambar Dayal S/o : Thakur Das R/o : H. No. B-1/13, Aman Vihar, Rohini, Delhi** has been missing since 15.03.2021 from his house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 144A dated 16.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Aman Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

BISHAMBAR DAYAL

Age: 60 Years, **Height:** 5'9", **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** White colour checkdhar shirt & grey colour pant.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Aman Vihar, Delhi at E-mail Id – cic@cbi.gov.in or Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>

SHO
011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/771/RD/2021

P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi
Rohini Distt., Delhi
Ph. No. 011-27581812, 2758122

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION DURG
Phone No.: 0788-2322148, E-mail id : durgmc2019@gmail.com
:-: Expression of interest :-:

No.23 /PWD/NND/2021 **Durg. Dated : 12.04.2021**

Proposals are invited from reputed and Experienced Manufacturer / Authorised Dealer for Providing & installation of LPG gas Fired Crematorium Furnace / Incinerator System for Human Body Cremation for Capacity of average One body per hour along with the ETP System. Air Purification System with Three Years AMC (Operation & Maintenance cost complete) The Proposals should be submitted by Speed Post/ Registered Post/ Courier/by hand also latest by 20/04/2021 Up to 5:00 P.M. along with required documents EMD of Rs. 50,000/- in the form of FDR/ Account payee cheque and fee for information Docket cum EOI form. The information Docket cum EOI form can be Downloaded from website <http://www.uad.cg.gov.in> and www.municipalcorporationdurg.in while submitting downloaded EOI Docket Rs. 5,000/- as Cost of EOI form shall be submitted in the form of DD/ Account payee cheque of any Nationalized / Schedule Bank drawn in favor of Commissioner Municipal Corporation Durg payable at DURG. The Commissioner Municipal Corporation Durg reserves the right to Change/ Amend the terms and Conditions; select / reject any application without assigning any reason there of. All the amendment/ corrigendum or related information regarding this EOI process will be published on website only as mentioned above, so hereby prospective bidders are advised to visit the same on regular basis.

Executive Engineer

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE					
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD/CORP./AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH
1	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL THANESAR	REPAIR AND PETCH WORK ON KDB ROAD ON MC THANESAR + 1 WORK	15.04.2021 22.04.2021	45000/-	etenders.hry.nic.in
2	HVPNL	AUGMENTATION OF 132 KV S/STN. RAJOUND BY PROVIDING POWER 40/50MVA, 132/33KV T/F BY REPLACING 20/25MVA , 132/33KV T/F IN BAY NO 5 AT 132KV S/STN. HVPNL RAJOUND F.Y. 2021-22.	12.04.2021 23.04.2021	9.80 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in
3	HVPNL	1. WHITE WASH/EXTERIOR PAINT ON BOUNDARY WALL OF RESIDENTIAL AND NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 66KV S/STN. NARAINGARH. 2. TILE TRACING WORK OF CONTROL ROOM BUILDING AT 66KV SUBSTATION KALKA.	09.04.2021 19.04.2021	2.96 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in
4	HVPNL	1. WHITE WASH/EXTERIOR PAINT ON BOUNDARY WALL OF RESIDENTIAL AND NON RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AT 66KV S/STN. NARAINGARH. 2. TILE TRACING WORK OF CONTROL ROOM BUILDING AT 66KV SUBSTATION KALKA.	09.04.2021 15.04.2021	7.64 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in
5	HVPNL	ATTENDING THE OIL LEAKAGE/ SEEPAGE OF 12.5/16 MVA 66/11 KV TRANSFORMER T-1, MAKE BHEL, INSTALLED AT 66 KV SUB-STATION HVPNL, MEHRA (INCLUDING LABOUR AND MATERIAL).	09.04.2021 20.04.2021	1.69 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in
6	MC ISMAILABAD	CONSTRUCTION/REPAIR OF VARIOUS STREET, DRAINS SITUATED IN WARD NO 1 TO 13 AND 3 OTHER WORKS	12.04.2021 19.04.2021	FOR SOCIETY - 9837/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
7	HVPNL	CONSTRUCTION OF FRONT AND REAR AREA OF QUARTERS AT 220/132 KV S/STN., POWER HOUSE COLONY, KARIAL (NIT NO. 35/TSKNL/2021-22 DT. 09-04-2021)	09.04.2021 16.04.2021	7.30 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in
8	HVPNL	SUPPLY OF 24 NO. COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ON CONTRACT BASIS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-22 UNDER TS CIRCLE, HVPNL, HISAR (TENDER ID:- 2021_HBC_168531_1). (NIT NO. 01/TS/BHW/2021-22 DATED 12.04.2021)	13.04.2021 22.04.2021	94.46 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in
9	HVPNL	SUPPLY OF I) ONE NO. BOLERO JEEP/ON AC WITH DRIVER FOR XEN TS DIVN. HVPNL KATHAL. II. TWO NO'S NON AC PICKUP LIKE BOLERO CAMPER WITH DRIVER FOR SSE 220KV S/STN. KATHAL AND 132KV S/STN. HVPNL THANA. ON CONTRACT BASIS UNDER TS DIVN. HVPNL OFFICE KATHAL. DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-22 OR AS PER REQUIREMENT . ON CONTRACT BASIS UNDER TS DIVN. HVPNL OFFICE KATHAL. DURING THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021-22 OR AS PER REQUIREMENT	08.04.2021 19.04.2021	15.12 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in
10	HVPNL	EXECUTION OF WORK FOR MUDDING OF 44 NOS. STUBS OF TOWER LEGS AT VARIOUS OF 220KV PEHOWA-BHADSON AND KUAL-BHADSON LINE	12.04.2021 19.04.2021	4.17 LACS	www.hvnpn.org.in
11	MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BHIWANI	REPAIRING AND MAINTENANCE OF PARK NEAR IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT, KIRTI NAGAR, W.NO. 05, BHIWANI + 15 WORKS	10.04.2021 01.05.2021	1.18 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
12	M.C. BAWAL	CONSTRUCTION OF NALA FROM JHABUWA ROAD TO MURARI MEDICAL IN WARD NO 12 MC BAWAL (+5 WORKS)	12.04.2021 19.04.2021	38 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
13	HARYANA SEEDS DEV. CORPN. LTD.	RE-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF JOWAR SEEDS ON CONSIGNMENT BASIS	13.04.2021 22.04.2021	EMD 1 LAKH	https://etenders.hry.nic.in
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO NO. 2581					

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is hereby informed that a male namely **Devender Sahni, S/o: Bhram Sahni, R/o: H.No. C-16, Satya Enclave, Prem Nagar-3, Delhi** has been missing since 27.03.2021 at about 07:00 AM from his home. In this regard DD No. 101 A dated 31.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Prem Nagar, Delhi. The description of missing man is as under:

Name: Devender Sahni, **Age:** 36 Years, **Height:** 5'6", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Hair:** Black, **Built:** Normal, **Wearing:** Yellow Colour T-Shirt & Blue Colour Lungi.

If anyone has any information about this missing man please inform P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi.

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, **Email:** cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, **Fax:** 011-24368639 **SHO**
Police Station, Prem Nagar, Delhi
Ph: 8750870322

DP/780/RD/2021

SEARCH OF MISSING



General public is hereby informed that one female, **Namely: Basanti, W/o: Sh. Janki Prasad, R/o: H.No. A-15, Balbir Nagar, Delhi.** **Aged:** 32 years has been missing from her home since 19.03.2021 at 07:00 PM. In this regard, a **Case Vides DD No. 55A, Dated 20.03.2021**, has been lodged at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. Her description is as under:

Height: 5'3" feet, **Complexion:** fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Orange Colour Saree and Black Colour Slippers in her feet.

If anyone has any information about the missing female, then please inform P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi at email: ciccbi@cbi.nic.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Fax: No.011-23011133, Ph.: 011-23014046 (Direct), 23015229, 23015218 Extn. 210.

S.H.O
P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi
Ph. No. 011-23014046, 23015218

DP/778/RD/2021.

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED FEMALE



General Public is hereby informed that one female (depicted in the photo) namely **Hasina W/o Hashmukh R/o H. No. N-95/227, Jhuggi Shahjada Bagh, Inderlok, Delhi Aged- 36 Years** has been reported missing/kidnapped since 12.02.2021 at 05:00 PM from her house vide **FIR No. 89/21 u/s 365 IPC Dated 25.02.2021** registered at Police Station Sarai Rohilla, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Wheatish, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Maroon coloured suit-salwar, purple coloured burkha and slipper in feet.

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

Tele No. : 011-23014046(Direct), 011-3015229 & 23015218 extn. 210 **Sd/-**
FAX No. : 011-230111334 **SHO, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi**
DP/990/N/2021 **Tel.:** 011-23693611
Mob.: 8750870133

SEARCH OF MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that one girl, **Named: Nandini, D/o: Sh. Naresh Rawat, R/o: H.No. D-1/335, Gali No. 07, Pratap Vihar, Kirari Suleman Nagar, Delhi. Aged:** 15 years has been missing/ kidnapped from her home since 13.03.2021 at around 08:00 PM. In this regard, a **Case Vides FIR No. 137/21 u/s 363 IPC, Dated 15.03.2021**, has been lodged at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. Her description is as under:

Height: 4'6" feet, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** School Uniform, Pink Colour Check Suit, White Colour Salwar, White Colour Dupatta and Black Colour Shoes in her feet.

If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnaped girl, then please inform P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi at email: ciccbi@cbi.nic.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Fax: No.011-23011133, Ph.: 011-23014046 (Direct), 23015229, 23015218 Extn. 210.

S.H.O
P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi
Ph. No. 011-23014046, 23015218

DP/765/RD/2021.

Indirect tax mop-up exceeds target

Grows 12% in FY21 at ₹10.71 lakh cr

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The net indirect tax collection in 2020-21 grew 12.3 per cent annually to ₹10.71 lakh crore, thereby exceeding the target set in revised estimates, the Finance Ministry said on Tuesday.

The mop-up through indirect taxes, which include GST, Customs and excise duties, was ₹9.54 lakh crore in 2019-20. In the Revised Estimates

(RE) for 2020-21, the target was set at ₹9.89 lakh crore.

Net collections from Goods and Services Tax (GST) stood at ₹5.48 lakh crore during 2020-21, an eight per cent drop compared to ₹5.99 lakh crore in the previous fiscal year.

This include revenues from Central GST, Integrated GST and compensation cess.

Customs revenue during 2020-21 came in at ₹1.32 lakh crore, a 21 per cent growth over ₹1.09 lakh crore collected in 2019-20.

Net collections from central excise and service tax

(arrears) stood at ₹3.91 lakh crore, up 59.2 per cent over ₹2.45 lakh crore mopped up in 2019-20.

“The provisional figures for indirect tax collections (GST and non-GST) for Financial Year 2020-21 show that net revenue collections are at ₹10.71 lakh crore as compared to ₹ 9.54 lakh crore for Financial Year 2019-20, thereby registering a growth of 12.3 per cent,” a finance ministry statement said.

It said during the last fiscal year, GST collections were severely affected in the first half on account of COVID-19.

Indian economy may clock double-digit growth in 2021: Moody’s

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The second wave of Covid-19 infections presents a risk to India’s growth forecast as the reimposition of measures to curb the spread of the virus will hit economic activity, but a double-digit GDP growth is likely in 2021 given the low level of activity last year, Moody’s said on Tuesday.

Moody’s expects that given the focus on ‘micro-containment zones’ to deal with the current wave of infections, as opposed to a nationwide lockdown, the impact on economic activity would be less severe than that seen in 2020.

“India’s very low coronavirus death count (only about

1,70,179 deaths have been recorded as of April 12) and relatively very young population also help mitigate risks. GDP is still likely to grow in double digits in 2021 given the low level of activity in 2020,” Moody’s Investors Service said.

In its commentary on India, Moody’s said the countermeasures to combat the second wave – some of which are due to remain in place at least until the end of April – risk weakening the economic recovery.

However, the targeted nature of containment measures and rapid progress on vaccinating the population will mitigate the credit-negative impact.

Sensex rallies over 660 pts as bulls return; financials, auto stocks shine

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Stock markets regained footing on Tuesday after the previous session’s massive selloff, tracking renewed buying interest in financial, bank and auto counters amid firm global cues.

Participants also cheered the government’s decision to fast-track approval for foreign-produced Covid-19 vaccines. Russia’s Sputnik V vaccine has received emergency use authorisation in India, paving the way for the third coronavirus vaccine in the country.

However, the Covid-19 situation remains worrisome and will determine market trajectory in the near term, traders

said.

Building on a positive start, the 30-share BSE Sensex gained momentum in late-afternoon trade to close 660.68 points or 1.38 per cent higher at 48,544.06.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty surged 194 points or 1.36 per cent to finish at 14,504.80. M&M was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 8.02 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finserv, Bajaj Finance, Maruti, IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank, ONGC and Axis Bank.

On the other hand, TCS was the biggest laggard, slumping 4.21 per cent, a day after reporting its March quarter results.

DDA host online meeting

Delhi Development Authority held its meeting on 13.04.2021 through video conferencing under the chairmanship of Anil Bajjal, Hon’ble Lt. Governor, Delhi/Chairman, DDA attended by Anurag Jain, IAS, Vice Chairman, DDA and other members of the Authority.

Following major decisions were taken: Master Plan for Delhi 2041: The Authority has given preliminary approval for draft Master Plan for Delhi 2041. The draft will now be placed in public domain for inviting objections/suggestions from the public. Master Plan for Delhi prepared by Delhi Development Authority is a statutory document that facilitates Delhi’s development by assessing the present condition and guiding .

Ordered probe of WhatsApp policy on competition aspect: CCI to HC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The new privacy policy of WhatsApp would lead to excessive data collection and “stalking” of consumers for targeted advertising to bring in more users and is therefore, an alleged abuse of dominant position, competition regulator CCI told the Delhi High Court on Tuesday.

The submission was made before Justice Navin Chawla by senior advocate Aman Lekhi on behalf of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in

defence of its order directing an investigation into the new privacy policy of messaging platform WhatsApp.

The CCI was looking into the competition aspect and not the alleged violation of individuals’ privacy which was being looked into by the Supreme Court, Lekhi said.

“There is no question of jurisdictional error,” he said and added that WhatsApp and Facebook’s pleas challenging the CCI’s decision were “incompetent and misconceived”.

As eco recovers, 59% firms in India plan salary hike: Survey

PTI ■ MUMBAI

As the economy moves to a recovery path after a sharp decline last year amid the pandemic, a study has shown that 59% of companies in India are intending to give salary increments to their employees in 2021. According to staffing company Genius Consultants’ 10th Hiring, Attrition and Compensation Trend 2021-22, with this impressive growth rate, the market is expected to be stable, and the companies will also relook at their business continuity strategy along with strengthening the workforce.

This year, the increment scenario seems “welcoming with 59% of companies saying that increment is on the cards, which will range between 5-10 per cent whereas 20% thinks increment will be less than 5% and around 20% thinks that there will be no pay rise in 2021 too”, as per the study.

Major step taken for Jaipur traffic congestion

A major step has been achieved for solving the traffic congestion in the city of Jaipur by creating the Jaipur Central Region as a traffic light free city. In a meeting held today chaired by the Hon’ble Minister of Urban Development Shri Shanti Dhariwal attended by Gaurav Goel, IAS, JDC, VS Sunda, Chief Engineer, JDA and and Anoop Bartaria, Consultant Designer and CMD, Sincere Architects along with their team.The following decisions were taken in the meeting.

Feasibility report of four intersections i.e. (a) B2 Bypass (b) Laxmi Mandir Tiraha (c) OTS Crossing and (d) Jawahar Circle were discussed and approved. These projects have been designed to create a confluence of art, heritage and technology in pursuit to remove the traffic lights on these junctions.

Govt begins process for inviting financial bids for Air India sale

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Govt has initiated the process for inviting financial bids for the sale of national carrier Air India and the deal is likely to conclude by September, sources said.Salt-to-software conglomerate Tata Group was among the “multiple” entities that had put in preliminary bids for buying loss-making Air India in Dec last year.The sources said that after analysing the preliminary bids, eligible bidders were given access to the Virtual Data Room of Air India, following which investors’ queries were answered.The transaction has now moved to the financial bids stage, the sources said, adding that the deal is expected to conclude by Sept.The govt is selling its entire 100% stake in Air India that has been in losses ever since its merger with domestic operator Indian Airlines in 2007.

Baisakhi Festival organised in Jammu

Directorate of Tourism Jammu organised the Baisakhi Festival at Dera Baba Banda Bahadur, Reasi in collaboration with the District Administration Reasi w.e.f 11.04.2021 to 13.04.2021. The Festival was celebrated with great fervour amid following the Covid-19 protocol and guidelines. Hundreds of devotees paid obscience at the revered Shrine at Dera Baba Village of Reasi which is situated at approximately 30 km from the Katra town. The devotees from across the UT and also from neighboring states of Punjab and Haryana visited the Dera Baba Banda Bahadur Shrine on the occasion of Baisakhi Festival. It is worthwhile to mention here that the shrine is situated at the village of revered Sikh warrior and leader Baba Banda Bahadur Singh ji who was a close confidant and follower of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.

Decision on excise duty cut on petrol, diesel when time comes: CBIC chairman

New Delhi:The Government will look to reduce prices of petrol and diesel through a cut in taxes when the time comes, the head of the agency responsible for excise and other indirect tax collections said on

Tuesday. Record excise duty on petrol and diesel helped indirect tax collections rise by more than 59 per cent in the fiscal year ended March 31 (2020-21) when compared to the previous year.

PTI

NOTICE FOR LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATE

Notice is hereby given that the share certificates in respect of the under mentioned Equity Shares of **Carborundum Universal Limited (CIN: L29224TN1954PLC000318)** have been lost / misplaced and the holders of the said shares as mentioned under have applied for the issue of duplicate share certificates in lieu of the original share certificates:

Sr. No.	Name of the shareholders	Folio No.	No. of shares	Certificate Number	Distinctive Number(s)
1.	Yogendra Kumar Maheshwari	CUL 107712	2740	200	377291 380030

Any person having claims /objections or are in the possession of the above mentioned share certificates, should communicate the same by sending a mail to **ykmcfa@gmail.com** and **investorservices@cmi.murugappa.com** with their complete details within a period of 15 days from the publication of this notification, else the duplicate share certificate(s) shall be issued to the concerned shareholders as mentioned above after the expiry of 15 days.

Date: 14.04.2021
Place: Gurugram

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 50-55 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found dead in front of PNB bank, near Kudha Ghar Naya Bazar, Lahori, Gate, Delhi. In this regard, a vide has been registered with **DD No: 40-A, dated 10.04.2021 at PS Lahori Gate, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UIDB is as under:
Sex: Male, **Age:** 50-55 Years, **Height:** 5'5", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Striped shirt and black colour track pant.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/ Lahori Gate, Delhi.

E-mail : **cic@cbi.gov.in**
Ph.: **011-24368638, 24368641**
Fax : **011-24368639**
DP/1103/N/2021

SHO
P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi.
Ph. No. **011-23953776**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/Kidnapped

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Khushi D/o Lt. Jai Kishan, R/o H.No. A-198, Gali No.10, Ramesh Enclave, Kirari, Delhi** has been Missing/Kidnapped from house since 21.03.2021 from around 9.00 PM the area of PS. Aman Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a **FIR No.154/21 Dt.: 21.03.2021** has been lodged at PS, Aman Vihar, Delhi. The description of Missing girl is as under:

Name : Khushi, **Father's Name :** Lt. Jai Kishan, **Age :** 17 years, **Height :** 5'0", **Complexion :** Fair, **Built:** Thin, **Face:** Long, **Wearing :** Red Colour Top and Blue Salwar. If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : **http://cbi.nic.in**
E-mail : **cic@cbi.gov.in**
Fax : **011-24368639**
Ph. : **011-24368638, 24368641**
DP/768/RD/2021

SHO
P.S., Aman Vihar, Delhi
Ph : **011-27581812**
7065036123

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person **Name:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** 30-35 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'3", **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black & Blue T-shirt and Black Lower, has been found dead in M-Block Park, Sec-1, DSIIDC Bawana, Delhi on dated 04.04.2021 at about 09:15PM.

In this regard a DD No. 32A, dated 04.04.2021 has been lodged at PS. Bawana, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far.

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

SHO
P.S. Bawana, Delhi
DP/966/ON/2021(UIDB) Ph.: **011-27751949, 27756090**

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** **Karan Arora S/o :** Mukesh Kumar **R/o :** H. No.C-11/22, Sector-5, Rohini, Delhi has been missing since 06.03.2021 from the jurisdiction of P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 68A dated 06.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Budh Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Age: 25 Years, **Height:** 5'8", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Built :** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue colour shirt & jeans and blue colour sleeper in feet.

Any person having any information/Clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Budh Vihar, Delhi at E-mail Id – **cic@cbi.gov.in** or Website: **http://cbi.nic.in**

SHO
P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi
011-24368638, 24368641
Ph. No. 011-27052772, 27052773, 8750870326
DP/773/RD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Babita, W/o Deepak, R/o A-21, Kailash Vihar, Pansali, Delhi, Age: 32 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Wheatish, Hair: Black Long, Face: Oval, wearing Blue colour Suit & Salwaar, has been missing/kidnapped since 26.03.2021. In this regards a DD No. 57A, dated 27.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Begumpur, New Delhi.**

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

Website : **http://cbi.nic.in**
E-mail : **cic@cbi.gov.in**
Fax: **011-24368639**
Ph. No. : **011-24368638, 24368641**
DP/774/RD/2021 Tel.: **011-27581128, 8750870335**

SHO
P.S. Begumpur, New Delhi

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that my client **Sh. Ram Avtar S/o Late Sh. Parsh Ram** and his wife **Smt. Pushpa Devi**, both R/o H-3 H Block, Jai Vihar, Phase-1, Bapraula, West Delhi, Delhi-110043 have served all their relations with their son **Sh. Devender** due to his bad habits. Both of my above named clients have also disowned and debarred his said son from all their movable and immovable properties. Any body dealing with **Sh. Devender** will do so at his/her own risk and responsibilities and my clients will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by **Sh. Devender**.

Akhilesh Kumar (Advocate)
Enrol No. D/2380/2018

PUBLIC NOTICE

All the common people are informed that my client **Mr. Gyan Chand Bhansali S/o Shri Ram Chand ji Bhansali R/o 2721, Chowk Rai ji, Dharmapura, Delhi - 110006**, prepared a Special Power of Attorney on his behalf and on behalf of **Shri Jain Khartargachh Sangh (Regd.) Delhi** in favor of **Mr. Srikanth Jain, S/o Mr. Virendra Kumar Jain R/o H. No. 114, L. G. Floor, Nav Jeevan Vihar, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi - 110017 (Aadhar No. 748625914856)**. The Special Power or Attorney prepared on 29 January 2020 and notarized on 26 February 2020 which was revoked by my client on 5 April 2021. My client **Mr. Gyan Chand Bhansali and Shri Jain Khartargachh Sangh (Regd.)**, Delhi are not responsible in any way for any work or transaction done by **Mr. Shrikant Jain** in future.

Kushal Raj Tater (Advocate)

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that a boy namely **Khem Chand, S/o Harish Chand, R/o Raj Singh Ka Makan, Village Rajapur, Sector-9, Rohini, Delhi Age: 20 years, Height: 5'11", Complexion: Sallow, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Identification Mark: Cut mark on forehead, Wearing: Blue Colour Jeans Pant and Black Colour Shoes in his feet has been missing from his home since 21.03.2021 at 8.30 pm. In this regard DD No. 90, dated 23.03.2021 has been registered at PS. Prashant Vihar, Delhi.**

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

E-mail : **cic@cbi.gov.nic.in**
Ph.: **011-24368638, 24368641**
Fax : **011-24368639**
DP/776/RD/2021

SHO
PS Prashant Vihar, Delhi
Ph. : **011-27561877, 27557184, 8750870325**

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED

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

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Ravinder @ Lappu, S/o Sh. Ramphal, R/o VPO Katewara, near Shiv Mandir, Delhi** has Committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 205/2017 U/S 307/34 IPC, P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Ravinder @ Lappu** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Ravinder @ Lappu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Ravinder @ Lappu** of **FIR No. 205/2017 U/S 307/34 IPC, P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi** is required to appear before this Court to answer the said complaint on or before **06.04.2021**.

By Order
Sh. Suresh Kumar Gupta, Metropolitan Magistrate, Court No. 401, 4th Floor, Rohini Courts, Delhi

DP/786/RD/2021(Court Matter)

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one unknown female was found at PP No. 7, Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station at 12:10 PM along with one baby, **Age:** 5 months. The description of female is as under: **Age:** 25 years, **Height:** 5'1", **Complexion:** Shallow, **ID Mark:** Nisha tattoo on her right hand, wearing Black T-shirt and Blue Jeans. In this regard a **DD No. 10A, dated 07.04.2021 has been registered at P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi.**

Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the family members of female & baby girl but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about their family please inform undersigned.

Website : **http://cbi.nic.in**
E-mail : **cic@cbi.gov.in**
Fax: **011-24368639**
Ph. No. : **011-24368638, 24368641**
DP/109/Rly/2021

SHO
P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi
Ph.: **011-24358593, 24356743**

E-mail : **cic@cbi.gov.in**
Ph.: **011-24368638, 24368641**
Fax : **011-24368639**
DP/766/RD/2021

SHO
P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi.
Ph. No. **+91-7065036123**

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General Public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of a male **Namely Unknown S/o Unknown, R/o Unknown Age:** about 35-40 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Maroon coloured check shirt and red coloured pajama, has been found dead on 10.04.2021 at about 11:21 AM from Train accident at Pole No. 18/22-26, DN Line Rly Track, Near Palam Rly Station Fatak, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours at the Mortuary of DDU Hospital Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 18A, dated 10.04.2021 U/S 174 Cr.P.C.** has been lodged at P.S. Delhi Cantt Railway Station, Delhi.

If any one having any clue about deceased male may kindly inform the undersigned and contact on following numbers. **SHO**
P.S. Delhi Cantt Railway Station, Delhi
Ph.: **011-25688505**
Mob.: **8750871309**

DP/112/RLY/2021

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that one male was found dead at E Pole No. 25/10, 25/12, Down Main Line, Fatak No. 16, Bawana, Delhi on 11.04.2021 at 08:30 AM. In this regard **DD No. 8A Dated 11.04.2021** has been lodged at **P.S. Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi**. The description of the dead body is given as under:

Name: Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Religion:** Hindu, **Age:** about 45-50 years **Height:** 5'4" Feet, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Injury:** Head Injury, Bruising marks on body, **ID Marks:** A Black mole on left eyebrow. **Wearing:** Blue Colour T-Shirt, White Colour Banian, Cream Colour Lower and Red & Blue Colour Checkdar Underwear.

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

S.H.O
P.S. Subzi Mandi Railway Station, Delhi
Ph.: **011-23692455, 8750871303, 8130710331**

DP/110/RLY/2021



BRAND NEW FUTURE

New-age career options are a rage among students. MUSBA HASHMI speaks with experts and academicians to tell you how equipped schools are to prepare job ready individuals and what the future holds for these courses

It's time that we have finally managed to get over the likes of engineering, law and medical sciences. Alternative career options are now in the driver's seat. Students, too, are preferring to land a job that not only help them earn a handsome amount of money, but also give them that much needed job satisfaction. Not that, engineering and law lacks it, but it is, of course, not on everyone's cards. As the innovations are mostly turning out to be multidisciplinary and/or interdisciplinary, even the careers are becoming one. CM Faiz, Director, HKBK College Of Engineering, tells you that Sports Analytics/Sports Management and Audio Engineering are some of the few options that students can choose from. "Sports Analytics is used at every level of sports management from school to the international level, while audio engineering open a plethora of options in the music and film industry and also in the ad agencies," Faiz says.

Also, when one talks about technology an innovation, there is no way of not mentioning the growing careers of Full Stack Web Development and Cybersecurity. "Full Stack Web Development is the combination of both front end and back end portions in the life of a web application. You'll be glad to know that full-stack development jobs are considered one of the highest paying jobs in India. This is primarily because of its demand and the lack of skilled professionals in the domain. The average salary of a Full Stack Developer is around ₹10 lakh per annum and an experienced professional can earn ₹20 lakh per annum according to Glassdoor," Diwakar Chittora, CEO & Director, IntelliPaat, explains. On the other hand, cybersecurity jobs are in high-demand worldwide as every organisation professionals in their security teams to maintain their security and prevent any breach of data. "Organisations around the world are in need of cybersecurity

WHAT CAN BE DONE

- Tailor made syllabus
- On the field exposure
- Academic and Industry sessions from subject matter experts
- State of the art infrastructure
- Real-time internships
- Organisations have to strike MOUs with expert entities for knowledge exchange
- Research mentoring by subject matter experts
- Hosting real time student conferences
- Student exchange programs
- Imparting crucial lateral thinking skills in the domain area

professionals as vacancies are left unfilled and these vacancies are still open," Chittora adds. Another one on the list of the most-sought after jobs of the 21st century is Data Scientist. "Demand across the world for Data Scientists will only grow and the lack of competition for these jobs makes data science a lucrative option for a career path. People from across the world are getting into this domain due to its demand and popularity. According to an IBM report, Data Science jobs would likely grow by 30 per cent. The estimated figure of job listing is 2,720,000 for Data Science in 2021. Also, according to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, about 11 million jobs will be created by 2026," Chittora tells you. While new-age career options are the way forward, the question is whether the school curriculum is well-equipped enough to help students take the alternative way and makes them job ready. "The best route to creating job

ready individuals is to involve business organisations in the academic process. With the implementation of the New Education Policy (NEP 2020) that focuses on industry-academia alliance and vocational learning, we will be able to produce job ready individuals, who will revolutionise the industry and fast-track the development of our country," Alka Kapur, Principal, Modern Public school, Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi, tells you. She lists courses that are on the priority lists of students. "Technological advancement and digitisation of services have expanded the market, and they've opened up a plethora of job opportunities such as application developers, web creative writers, bloggers, wedding photographers, cinematographers, reviewers, influencers, social media handlers, digital marketers, motivational speakers, ethical hackers, web designers, image consultants, stand-up comedians and YouTubers, among others," she mentions.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life. Remember that fear always lurks behind perfectionism.

— Mokokoma Mokhonoana

Making the country proud

Making the country and her compatriots proud, SRM Institute of Science and Technology's (SRMIST) student Nethra Kumaran has become the first Indian woman to qualify for the upcoming Olympics. While confirming her berth in the Tokyo Olympics, Kumaran will be representing the country in sailing. She qualified for the prestigious event by securing top position at the Laser Radial event in the Mussanah Open Championship, a joint Asian and African Olympic qualifying event. A second-year engineering student of SRMIST, Kumaran has also represented the country at the 2014 and 2018 Asian Games in Incheon and Jakarta, respectively. This is not all. She became the first Indian woman to win

Kumaran will now become the first Indian woman sailor to represent the country at the Olympics. This 23-year-old professional sailor is a resident of Chennai and has made her institution proud. She trains in the Canary Islands, Spain.



Bid to nurture talent

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India's coaching capital, Kota, witnessed an unprecedented development when the doyens of coaching institutes get associated with Motion Education to give offline classes to JEE/NEET aspirants. The presence of three directors, viz., Akhilesh Khanter, Vishal Joshi, and Surendra Mishra from coaching institute Nucleus Education, in addition to the directors of Sarvottam Career Institute, namely, Lalit Vijay, Ashish Bajpai, Dr Ashish Maheshwari, Jitendra Chandwani, and GS Tiwari into Motion Education is considered a path-breaking event by industry insiders. Apart from the esteemed faculty members of Nucleus Education and Sarvottam Career Institute, Motion Education is further strengthened by the arrival of Gavesh Bhardwaj, Ramesh Sharda and Prashant Jain. They are the experts of Mathematics, Inorganic Chemistry, and Olympiads' preparation, respectively. Nitin Vijay, Managing Director, Motion Education, said: "We believe in putting forth relentless effort to pass the expertise of our esteemed faculty members to the brightest Technocrats and Medicos of the world, and in order to succeed and improve the standard of education on a consistent basis, we persistently search and follow creative methods."

‘NEP will be game changer’

DR RAMESH POKHRIYAL ‘NISHANK’ talks about how the NEP 2020 will help the country in overcoming several challenges by walking the footsteps of the Constitution’s chief architect Dr Ambedkar

Bhimrao Ramaji Ambedkar, whom we fondly know as Babasaheb Ambedkar, the face of the Indian independence movement, chairman of the drafting committee of the constitution, a social reformer, an Indian jurist, an educationist, and above all was a staunch supporter of the Dalit Movement in the post-independent Indian history. Babasaheb was the principal architect behind the Constitution and played an integral part in evolving the intellectual tradition within the Indian society. Born in Mahu (Madhya Pradesh), Ambedkarji was a prolific student who earned doctorates from Columbia University in New York and received a D.Sc from London University to become one of the best-educated persons of modern India. Raised in a low-income family, he faced several challenges during childhood; nevertheless, he became one of the greatest icons of the India. As one of the makers of modern India, he said, "Education is not only the birthright of every human being but also a weapon of social change." Ambedkarji was of the view that education is something that ought to be

brought within reach of everyone. It was him who deliberately included Article 45 in the Directive Principles of State Policy that "the state shall endeavour to provide, within ten years from the commencement of this Constitution, for free and compulsory education for all children until they complete the age of fourteen years." Only a few might be familiar that he contributed his views in the reform of education by taking an active part in discussing the Bombay university act and Primary Education Amendment Bill. His abiding interest in education was not limited to conjecture, but he diligently worked to give practical shape to his views. He founded the people's education society in 1945 and opened several colleges and hostels for the emancipation of Dalits and girls through education. Besides, Dr Ambedkar in the Constituent Assembly proposed to keep Sanskrit as a national language and advocated teaching in mother-tongue. He believed in making the child's learning process easy and smooth through education, taught in the mother tongue. Dr Ambedkar was an eminent supporter of job-oriented

Dr Ambedkar's vision on education will be accomplished through the NEP 2020. It is the first education policy for the 21st century, aiming to prepare the youth for gainful employment

inaugurated the Dr Ambedkar International Centre for socio-economic transformation in 2017. Not only this, today, I am elated to highlight that the vision of Dr Ambedkar on education will be accomplished through the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The NEP is the first education policy for the 21st century, aiming to build character and prepare the youth for gainful and fulfilling employment while being aligned to the Indian ethos. Dr Ambedkar, the Constitution's chief architect, supported the constitutional mandate of reservation as enshrined in Article 15 and Article 16 of our constitution. The NEP 2020 affirms that the provisions of reservations in educational institutions will not be diluted. Instead, new efforts will be made for bridging the gender gap as well as socio-economic disadvantaged groups in access, participation, and learning outcomes. Further, Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyals will be strengthened and expanded for girls from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The NEP 2020 is aligned with Babasaheb's vision of female edu-

cation and women emancipation. With the NEP, Sanskrit will be mainstreamed by being offered both at school and higher education and Sanskrit knowledge systems will be established and strengthened to conduct teaching and interdisciplinary research. The NEP keeps teachers at the centre of the reforms in the education sector as they are the ones who will truly shape the future of India. The policy will help recruit and train the best and brightest to enter the teaching profession at all levels. These teachers will help in fulfilling the vision of Dr Ambedkar, who has been one of the enlightened minds of modern India; the man who had contributed immensely to shaping India's future as a democracy and the secular fabric of our country. Thus, as one of the founding fathers of the Republic, the Bharat Ratna Dr Ambedkar will always be remembered fondly by the nation who was committed to the development and larger well-being of the entire nation. The writer is Union Education Minister, Government of India

Being one of the major reforms introduced to the education system in recent times, the Central Universities Common Entrance Test (CUCET) is an All-India test for admission various undergraduate/integrated, post-graduate and research programmes in Central/State universities of India. Having a major change in this academic year, CUCET has been named the common entrance test for admissions to 54 central universities. It is anticipated that the CUCET will be conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). Recently, Delhi University has also hinted to conduct the admission process for 2021 through CUCET and based on Class XII marks. CUCET is not an entirely unfamiliar entrance test, the Central universities have been conducting it until last year for admissions. While the major difference would be that the earlier version of

Common platform for all

With CUCET being named as the common entrance test for admissions to 54 Central universities, ANKIT KAPOOR tells you what the students can expect from it

CUCET was conducted in the offline mode and now the proposal is to conduct the test as a Computer Based Test (CBT), which, with complete details of the exam is expected to be revealed soon. The New Education Policy 2020 proposed a common entrance test for higher education. This will scrap the current domination of marks among the students. Over a period of time, we have seen the sky-scraping cut-offs of Delhi University creating a lot of pressure on the students and the parents to get the best so that they get admission to these colleges. There will be no stream instead



This will enable students to have a varied knowledge of the subjects. For example, a student wants to pursue Math Hons with it now it is possible to make history as a subject. This is the most important recommendation of NEP called multi-disciplinary. The expected CUCET approach. The Computer-based aptitude test will test the students on: Verbal Aptitude Logical Reasoning Quantitative Aptitude The CUCET entrance test will be compulsory for the students who seek admission to all the universities, and experts believe that it is absolute-

ly the need of the hour. It is important for the following reasons: The rising cut-offs of the universities create unnecessary pressure on the students Equal opportunities to all the students This will enable the students to understand the importance of aptitude building and will make them market-ready. The quality of students will get enhanced This will aim to give students holistic development This change of conducting one exam is the change for good and will allow students to experience equal opportunity in the real sense. For this, students need to continuously strive towards honing their skills and understand the importance of aptitude building. The writer is Managing Director — Pratham Test Prep



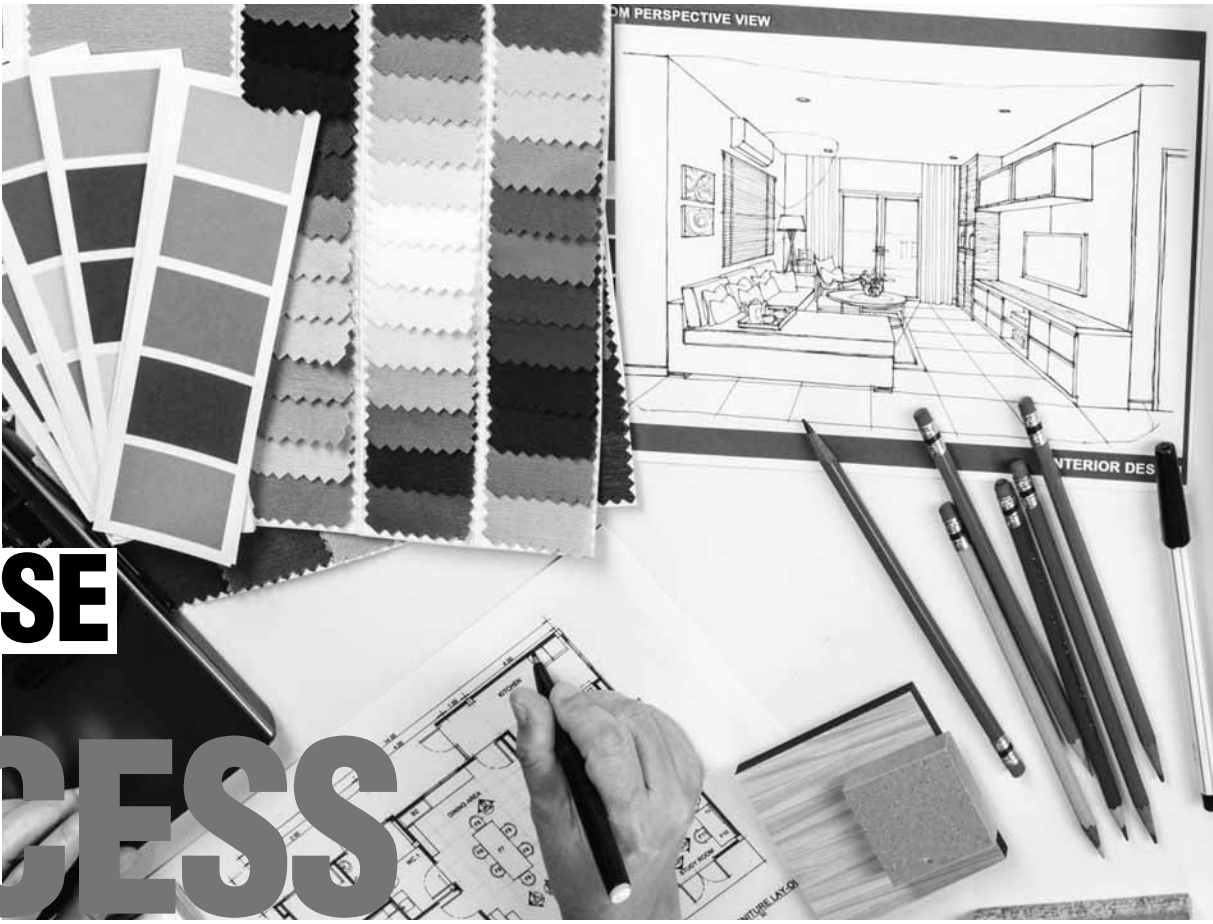
Top institutes to go for

Data science is the field of study that combines domain expertise, programming skills and knowledge of mathematics and statistics to extract meaningful insights from data. Today, from multinational companies to small startups, every organisation requires a Data Scientist for proper usage of the huge amount of data it generates and stores. The rising demand for data science professionals presses on the need to have some significant courses and curriculum to skill-up the budding leaders. Here is a list of India's top institutes offering comprehensive and advanced data science online courses that can help learners acquire the right skill set and land their dream job. Henry Harvin: The course equips students with the most essential skills needed to apply data science in any number of real-world contexts. It blends theory, computation, and application in a most easy-to-understand and practical way. The training duration is 40 hours with 12 month free Brush Up sessions and 50 hours e-learning access. The course fee starts from ₹13,500 onwards. IntelliPaat: IntelliPaat's Data Science training programme offered in collaboration with IBM lets learners gain proficiency in Data Science with Python, Machine Learning, AI, Deep Learning, Big Data Hadoop, Spark and Tableau Desktop. This programme comprises 10+ courses, 53+ industry-specific projects, and 232 hours of online instructor-led training with a CAPSTONE project. Learners will get access to the IBM

course and earn a certificate from IBM. Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode: IIM Kozhikode has launched the Certificate Programme in Data Science, designed to give you a detailed insight into modern data science practices. The course helps participants to understand the differences between small data and big data, explore Python and learn to import Python libraries such as NumPy and Pandas amongst other skills. The three months programme is conducted online through session of four-five hours per week. Graduate or diploma holders in any discipline with minimum one year of work experience can apply. The fee is ₹71,750 excluding taxes. Simplilearn: The Post Graduate Programme (PGP) in Data Science in partnership with Purdue University is a comprehensive Data Science bootcamp programme — leveraging Purdue's academic excellence in Data Science and Simplilearn's partnership with IBM. This programme is ideal for all working professionals, covering job-critical topics like R, Python programming, and machine learning algorithms. The programme duration is one year where classes are conducted online four-five hours per week. The admission fee is ₹2,15,000 (excluding GST) Upgrad: It offers India's first NAACCOM certified Executive PGP in Data Science from IITB. The duration is one year and classes are conducted. The eligibility for the course is to have a Bachelor's Degree with minimum 50 per cent or equivalent passing marks.

To excel in the interior architecture and design industry, exhibit clarity of thought and be a team player with added skills, says DR JITIN CHADHA

CUSTOMISE PATH TO SUCCESS



The interior design business in India is estimated to be between \$20-\$30 billion, as per Indian Interior Design Markets 2020-2027 published in *Mordor Intelligence*. Its growth is attributed to growing real estate market, rising income levels, urbanisation, the influence of social media, work from home requirements and lifestyle changes. The rapid acceleration of technology (Augmented Reality, Virtual Tours, Artificial Intelligence) has allowed construction and design of spaces to be tech-friendly and adaptable to meet multiple needs.

For interior architecture and design graduates today, the work opportunities are immense. You can access any company that creates spaces for people to live in, shop, work and be entertained. These include architectural, construction and interior design firms, events management companies, design consultancies, retailers, hospitality and recreational spaces, theatre, TV or film and digital content creators.

Beyond the familiar are alternate careers like interior styling and visual merchandising, her-

itage and conservation architecture, exhibition design, set design, experience design, furniture design, product design and scenography.

Be in demand. Find your niche, that specialised segment of the market or area of work that interests and you see yourself wanting to build a career. Clarity of thought and a plan of action are a priority.

There are multiple ways to assess your niche, gain experience and proactively build a strong portfolio and network of contacts before deciding on permanent employment or starting one's venture. Entering competitions, attending exhibitions, undertaking stimulating personal projects, hobbies and side hustles provide valuable learning experiences. Social media helps to follow trends and gain knowledge about various innovation and best practices from across the globe.

Relevant work experience showcases to employers your capabilities in a professional environment and creative portfolios showcase the range of your abilities. Don't exclusively focus on what the company can

TO EXCEL AND ALIGN ONESELF AS A STRONG TEAM PLAYER, ONE WILL NEED TO EXERCISE AN ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET AND PROBLEM-SOLVING CAPABILITIES. THIS CAN HELP GAIN PROMINENCE AS A VALUABLE TEAM MEMBER. IT'LL ALSO ENCOURAGE ONE TO OPEN A VENTURE

do for you. Instead, showcase how you can support them. That'll help them to assess how well you can fit into their work culture and why they should invest in you.

■ Companies that will offer you the opportunity and encourage your growth are multidisciplinary design firms and medium-sized start-ups.

■ Small start-ups do seek fresh graduates who show unique design sensibilities.

■ Internships are a great way to gain entry into well-established firms.

■ Don't shy away from entry-level or freelance jobs. They help to gain an insight into the context in which a company operates.

■ Travelling helps to garner a wide range of experience working with different types and sizes of firms, niche marketplaces and offline and online spaces.

■ Team up with app developers to ideate and create sector-specific apps (Homestyler) and/or become an influencer and thought leader using YouTube and Instagram (InteriorMaata).

Start-ups will also expose

you to challenging tasks, the latest tools and technologies.

Project management experience will teach you professionalism, communication, time management, and coordination between stakeholders. It'll also provide the necessary operational skills to manage an office and team, create a brand and execute financial responsibilities.

To excel and align yourself as a strong team player, you will need to exercise an entrepreneurial mindset and problem-solving capabilities. This can help to gain prominence as a valuable team member. It'll encourage you to venture on your own as well. The entrepreneurial struggle will then feel less challenging and might help you to choose your co-founder(s).

Today creativity, sustainability, personalisation, adaptability and technological innovation form the new responsible design guideline.

To find success you must exhibit clarity of thought, collaborative team effort and complementary skills to integrate yourself into the industry.

The writer is Director, Indian Institute of Art and Design

'Internship helps gain professional experience'

There are several internships available for students in France once they finish their studies. This will help them gain global experience and exposure to cultural diversity, says SOM SHARMA

There are many students who look for opportunities to study abroad. There are several reasons. It gives them a global exposure; they come to know about different cultures and traditions and overcome challenges of living in another country. These are some of the things that modern businesses look for when hiring.

While the US, Canada and Australia are popular destinations that many choose, France is emerging as a likeable and preferable option. The reason? The country is offering jobs to students. Internships in France are a great opportunity to gain professional experience in the European continent.

Despite the pandemic, France continues to open its doors to international students and researchers since the beginning of February 2021. There are several options available for students after finishing their studies here as the country offers a vast variety of internships because of the cultural diversity and advanced economy.



Som Sharma
Founder-director, Edu Brain Group

There are many sectors like Engineering, Business, Management and Hospitality that students can look at to build their careers.

■ Hospitality: France attracts tourists from all over the world. This could make it an ideal spot for hospitality-focused students to get familiar with their field. One can get the opportunity to work with resorts to perceive how they handle things. Your English-speaking skills can also be a plus point.

■ Business and management: Much like Computer Science, the executives' experts are popular. Showcasing manager and business-related courses will give a good Return on Investment. France is home to a large number of global organisations. There are several lucrative, quickly developing, remunerating businesses.

■ Computer Science and IT: The IT and software engineering are the courses that are popular globally. Each industry needs experts from this field of study, and the global associations in this country is no special case.

■ Engineering: Another important reason to study in France is Engineering. There are additional

courses accessible to consider Engineering like the Master of Science in Energy and Environment, and the Master of Science in Management-Engineering.

■ Art History: There's an exhibition hall showing classical art masterpieces all over the country. One could be set with a historical centre, and exhibition. While there, one could help design new exhibits, and witness art rebuilding.

■ Global experience: Travelers love global experiences' temporary job programmes. Not only guaranteed internships, but you will also be living and breathing Paris life.

■ Language house: Looking into a teaching profession through turning into an intern in France? If that is the case, the language house will work for you while working in a multi-week certified Teaching English as a Foreign Language course.

■ IES abroad: This programme has been effectively introducing students into the French lifestyle for more than 50 years.

■ Jobs and internships abroad: This programme supplier may have what one is searching for as it offers direction, arrangements dependent on your abilities and destinations.

A majority of environmental degradation arises due to lack of education and awareness. We have to make sure that the children are aware of the various environmental problems so that they can find solutions and create a better world. Children are the future and that is the reason why they need to be educated at a young age and grow up to lead a sustainable and eco-friendly life.

To achieve this, there should be a compulsory environmental studies class from the primary level onwards. It should include interesting kid-friendly garden activities. At junior level, a monthly activity should be planned with parents.

The idea is to make it a family

endeavour. If the child carries forward what he does at school and at home too, then that would make for a strong foundation towards sustainable development. The entire world stands up to notice if a child takes charge and leads from the front.

Take the example of Greta Thunberg, who has grabbed world's attention towards climate change, pollution and the problems created because of it. She forced the adults to question themselves and think about their methods and attitude towards handling these environmental problems. If one child can do all this, imagine the impact if all the children become aware. They can bring a huge change.

Education is the basis of everything.

MINDIT

This is the reason why children need to be educated at an early age so that they grow up with the idea to protect and preserve the environment.

Environmental education helps in connecting with the world around us and gives us knowledge about the situation and explore new methods to improve it. People can explore all the environment-related problems and work towards finding solutions.

Take the Philippines. The country has introduced a new law under which all

students in from elementary school to college have to plant 10 trees in order to graduate. Such initiatives help students as well as parents to understand the importance of increasing forestation and other green solutions. There are several benefits of environmental education. These are:

Diversity of India requires a diverse solution: India is diverse when it comes to climate, fauna and flora. Every location needs a different kind of solution. It is important to have an environmental

education location-specific. Whether we bring Nature to the classroom or take the classroom to Nature, it will connect students more with Mother Earth. Education in school can help children to understand their area better and find a solution for it. Both Ladakh and Rajasthan have water problems during summer and both need a different approach for solving that problem.

It can save our planet: Earth has all the resources, climate and geography which can sustain and develop life. Environmental education will help students to find sustainable solutions.

Improve health: Pollution is affecting mental and physical health. It can improve if we live more in contact with nature and

needs to go outside the four walls. It will give students, who are glued to their gadgets an opportunity to be outdoors and experience serenity.

Increase the use of renewable sources of energy: Environmental education creates awareness about renewable sources of energy and makes people understand the need and importance of renewable energy. The use of renewable sources like solar energy, wind energy which is a good and non-pollutant source of energy is encouraged by educating the young kids and this knowledge is imperative in our fight against global warming.

The writer is Dr Mukesh Kwatra, Founder, Smiling Tree



The Triumphant Institute of Management Education (TIME) Pvt Ltd is organising GATEQuest Scholarship test on April 18, 2021. It is open for aspiring students of GATE 2022 to be conducted in two slots through online mode so that the aspirants can enroll and take tests as per their convenience.

The test will have multiple choice questions on quantitative ability, data interpretation, and verbal ability, Core Engg Subject (Basic Subjects). There will be 40 MCQs and no negative marking for wrong answers. The top performers will be awarded a 100% scholarship. Students who will enroll till April 18, 2021 will get a special fee discount of ₹14,750 only. The duration of this will be one hour.

Interested students can register at the following link: <https://www.time4education.com/local/articlecms/page.php?id=4584>.

The Augsburg University invites application for its International Regents award programme for the academic year 2021-2022. It is open for first-year and transfer international stu-

dents who are going to apply for an undergraduate degree program at the university. The sponsorship will be awarded for an undergraduate in any subject offered by the university.

Augsburg University will provide an award of \$30,000 per year contingent upon the student living on campus and will be reduced to \$25,000 per year if the student decides to live off-campus.

Eligibility: Have high school certificates with excellent academic record.

Supporting documents: No additional documents would be asked by the university but there is a possibility of asking at the time of admission.

Admission requirements: Candidates must meet all the entry requirements of the university.

Language requirement: All international applicants who are non-native English speakers must submit one of the following minimum scores in order to meet the English proficiency requirement for admission.

How to apply: There is no separate application for this award, you are required to apply for admission to Augsburg University. After that, it is automatically awarded to all first-year and transfer international students who are admitted to Augsburg University.

Application deadline: The last date to apply is August, 2021.

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT CLEAN ENERGY ASSOCIATES
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/8300735
Deadline: April 21, 2021

CLIENT SERVICING (NON-VOICE) AT ADVIDS
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/8300738
Deadline: April 21, 2021

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT THE MARKETEERS
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/8300739
Deadline: April 21, 2021

HR AT SUEZ INDIA
Location: Delhi, Gurugram
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/8300741
Deadline: April 21, 2021

CUSTOMER SUPPORT AT LEAF STUDIOS
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/8300742
Deadline: April 21, 2021

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT BLACK GLASS EVENTERS
Location: Chandigarh, Mohali, Panchkula, Panchkula Urban Estate
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/8300744
Deadline: April 21, 2021

FRESHER JOBS
SOCIAL MEDIA EXECUTIVE AT POLICY 4.0
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹4-₹6 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/8300748
Deadline: May 1, 2021

Skill(s): Social Media Marketing, Video Editing, Digital Marketing, Search Engine Optimization (SEO), Video Making



INBRIEF

SEED FUNDING FELLOWSHIPS FOR NMIMS

Two teams from Shri Vile Parle Kelvani Mandal's (SVKM) Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies (NMIMS) Mukesh Patel School of Technology Management and Engineering were granted Resolution Fellowships by the Social Venture Challenge (SVC) at the Harvard World Model United Nations 2021, held in Tokyo. Under the fellowship programme, the teams received a total funding of \$8,150, which will be increased further when the teams achieve their targets.

With an emphasis on learning disabilities, Project Alphabet was founded by Ishita Gupta and Aneesh Kulkarni, to increase awareness about special education, through a platform that would bring together special

educators and children in need of their services. The platform has received seed funding of \$3,650.

AnalytIQ, which was founded by Naman Doshi and Dhvani Agrawal, focused on financial education for youth, through an innovative visual and practical approach devised by experts that makes the process easy to understand and remember.

AnalytIQ, the other fellowship awardee at the Social Venture Challenge, has received \$4,500 in seed funding.

To secure the grant, the teams had to meet three challenges as set under the SVC — identifying a problem, conceiving a solution and implementing it.

They had to design and present detailed proposals on how their enterprises would address the specific problems.

TEACHING VIA TALES IN CURRICULUM

Khar (Mumbai) School Jasudben ML School (JML), introduces a first-of-its-kind, in-curriculum, storytelling-based value enrichment programme for Classes I to IV.

The year-long programme that builds values like kindness, respect and honesty in students using Indian stories. For this, the school has

engaged Amar Chitra Katha to unleash the magic of stories into the classroom.

Damayanti Bhattacharya, principal, JML School said: "Adults underestimate the power of stories and their impact on young minds. The message or moral of an interesting story creates a far greater impression on kids than the usual preaching ever does. Storytelling is a

beautiful tool that simultaneously engages various parts of the mind like the cognitive, the creative and the emotional. It allows children to explore their cultural roots, experience diverse thoughts and enables them to empathise with unfamiliar people, places or situations. We are looking forward to introducing this programme with Amar Chitra Katha."

JGU OFFERS PROGRAMME ON VARSITY MANAGEMENT

OP Jindal Global Institution, Deemed to be University (JGU) has announced University Administrative Service (UAS) programme for its graduates.

This programme will redefine leadership and management services at universities and create a group of talented and qualified individuals who will be fast-tracked into the university's executive management and leadership teams for the internal governance and administration.

The UAS has the

potential to transform the landscape of academic leadership at JGU and will also prove to be an innovative and landmark system to identify, retain and train talent while offering students direct access to a highly recognised and reputed career paths within JGU.

This initiative will be a gamechanger as the higher education institutions (HEIs) need reforms, the heart of which is related to improving internal governance and the quality of administration.

To apply, applicants

must not be more than 25 years of age, and have an outstanding academic record. They will need to send in a detailed resume, their academic records and statement of purpose.

The short-listed candidates will undergo a screening test to assess values and ethics, verbal ability, analytical skills, reading comprehension, data interpretation and sufficiency, quantitative ability and general knowledge and current affairs, followed by group discussion and an interview.

UPSKILLING PROGRAMMES FOR TEACHERS

Suraasa, a jobtech platform focused on school teachers' career growth, has announced the expansion of its physical centers starting from Bengaluru.

While there is a huge demand for skilled teachers in India, there is a dearth of teachers equipped with high-quality pedagogy skills.

The platform is committed to bridging this gap. Not less than 90 per cent of all teachers who have undertaken

the programme have already found placements with international schools.

Rishabh Khanna, cognitive scientist and founder, Suraasa said: "Technology has penetrated into every aspect of our lives. We are leveraging these upcoming tech trends and unlocking their potential to revolutionise learning for everyone. Our efforts are paying off and transforming the decades-old archaic education system."

ADVANCED TECHNIQUE FOR LITHIUM-ION BATTERY

A team of researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, has developed an advanced technique which can precisely estimate one of the most important battery internal states. Known as State of Charge (SOC), it reflects capacity

of the battery — how much more charge can be withdrawn from it before it gets fully discharged.

This information helps to optimise battery's capacity utilisation, prevents overcharging and undercharging of the battery, increases lifespan,

reduces cost and ensures battery and the surrounding's safety.

Lithium ion batteries are widely recognised in various applications due to their low carbon emission, high energy density, low self-discharge rate, and low maintenance cost.

