OPINION 6

ELECTIONS IN THE

TIME OF COVID

WORLD 8

IRAN PREZ CALLS 60% ENRICHMENT

AN ANSWER TO 'EVILNESS'

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exams cancelled

Govt defers Class XII examinations amid rising Covid concerns PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Wednesday announced the cancellation of CBSE Board examinations for Class 10 and postponed Class 12 exams in the wake of the coronavirus crisis. Both board examinations were scheduled for Mav-June.

The revised dates will be announced after June 1. The decision was taken at a highlevel meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the wake of rising cases of Covid-19 cases and concerns raised from various quarters, including a few Opposition

The meeting was attended by Union Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank', education secretary and other officials. The meeting also discussed a uniform policy or guidelines on board exams across States as was being demanded by several State Ministers

The CICSE, which is the other prominent national board for school examinations, said it is reviewing the situation and will come up with a decision soon in this regard.

According to the official sources, Modi said the

Russia swears by

India friendship to

allay Pak-ties fear

Days after promising military equipment to Pakistan, Russia on Wednesday

tried to pacify India by assuring that Moscow's ties with

New Delhi and Islamabad are

independent. Moreover, India

is a "trusted partner" of Russia,

Foreign Minister Sergey

Lavrov's recent visit to New

Delhi and then to Islamabad. In

Pakistan, Lavrov said Russia was ready to supply special military equipment to Pakistan to boost

its counter-terror capabilities.

Allaying apprehension, Deputy Chief of Russian

Embassy Roman Babushkin

said India is a "trusted partner",

and there were no divergences

or misunderstandings between

the two countries and that it

has "limited cooperation" with

Pakistan based on "indepen-

recent commitment by India

and Pakistan to follow the

2003 ceasefire on the Line of

Control (LoC) and said these

are "very important steps" for

However, at a joint media briefing with Babushkin, Russian

Ambassador Nikolav Kudashev

criticised the Indo-Pacific strat-

egy by western countries describ-

ing it as "dangerous" and an

effort to revive the cold war men-

tality. Babushkin said India must

be part of the process of shaping

Afghanistan and that New Delhi

and Moscow have similar

approaches for the Afghan peace

regional consensus

process.

He also welcomed the

dent" relations.

regional stability.

His statement came after

PNS NEW DELHI



Government would keep in mind the best interests of the students and ensure that their health is taken care of at the same time their academic interests are not harmed.

After the announcement, Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi tweeted that a decision must be taken for Class 12 too. "Glad the Government has finally cancelled the 10th standard exams, however a final decision MUST be taken for the 12th grade also. Keeping students under undue pressure until June makes no sense. It's unfair. I urge the Government to decide now," she tweeted.

The decision by Centre on CBSE will affect over 21 lakh students across the country. This is the first time that the Central Board of Secondary Education has altogether cancelled the board examinations conducted by it. Last year, the exams were partially cancelled

SAURAV ROY RANCHI

Coronavirus have been found

districts, the Regional Genome

Sequencing Laboratory (RGSL)

Institute of Life Sciences (ILS)

Bhubaneshwar last week for

test reports confirmed that at

least nine of these samples

were of UK mutant strain while four were double mutant, a

The genome sequencing of

samples from Jharkhand con-

firmed that at least eight of the

nine UK mutant samples were

from Ranchi and the remaining

one was from East Singhbhum.

Among the four double mutant

strains, three were from Ranchi

and one from East Singhbhum,

already battling the worst wave of Covid-19 infections, the

the virus has rung the alarm

bell for the health department.

The mutant strains of the virus

have higher transmissibility

and are also likely to evade the

immune response of the body

developed after exposure to the

At a time when the state is

idents to be cautious.

confirmed on Wednesday.

positive

ILS found.

Bhubaneshwar-based

The Health Department had sent as many as 52 Covid

samples

in Delhi in the wake of riots in northeast Delhi and Covid-19

The CBSE will review the situation on June 1 to decide on the Class 12 exam schedule while objective criteria will be decided for Class 10 results.

In a statement issued after the meeting, the Union Education Ministry said, Looking to the present situation of the pandemic and school closures, and also taking in account the safety and well-being of the students, it is decided as follows."

"The Board Exams for Class 12 to be held from May 4 to June, 14, 2021 are hereby postponed. These exams will be held hereafter," the Minister

The situation will be reviewed on June 1, 2021 by the Board, and details will be shared subsequently, the official statement read.

UK strain, double mutant coronavirus

Genome sequencing confirms presence in Ranchi, East Singhbhum

found in Jharkhand patients

India's daily Covid-19 count neared the 2-lakh mark on

Wednesday as the situation turned alarming in several States and reports of unavailability of hospital beds, ventilators, and oxygen cylinders poured in from all over the country.
India recorded 1,94,108

ases and 972 deaths late on Wednesday. The country caseload spiked despite a certain degree of containment achieved in Maharashtra where the daily surge has remained confined in the range of 55,000 to 60,000. During the last 24 hours, Maharashtra recorded 58,952 fresh cases and 278 new deaths.

On a day when the Maharashtra Government began to enforce stringent restrictions, including a ban on the movement of people in

21 at women's national boxing camp Covid +ve

New Delhi: Indian women's boxing's High Performance Director Raffaele Bergamasco and head coach Mohammed Ali Qamar are among 21 campers who have tested positive for Covid-19 at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium here but none of the infected pugilists are bound for Olympics.

number of infections dropped from Tuesday's tally of 60,212 to 58,952, while deaths came down from 281 to 278 in various parts of the State.

With 58,952 fresh cases. the total infections climbed from 35,19,208 to 35,78,160. Similarly, with 258 new deaths, the total Covid-19 toll rose from 58,526 to 58,804.

However, Covid-19 cases continued to hit new peaks on daily basis in States such as Uttar Pradesh (20, 510 new cases), Delhi (17,282),

6 pm to 6 am night curfew in all cities in Raiasthan

Jaipur: Rajasthan on Wednesday night announced a 12-hour daily curfew from 6 pm to 6 am — starting Friday, across all cities, as part of a series of measures to combat a worrying spike in Covid cases.The curfew will be in effect till the end of the month.





1,24,23,992 ACTIVE: 14,62,828

MAHARASHTRA: 35,78,160 **KERALA: 11,89,176**

KARNATAKA: 10,94,912

DELHI: 7,67,438 (+17,282)

Chhattisgarh (12,603) and Madhya Pradesh (9,720), Gujarat (7,410) among others. In terms of death, Maharashtra accounted for 278, Delhi 104, Chhattisgarh (90), UP 67, Karnataka 38, and Gujarat 73.

set in after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, former Chief

In Uttar Pradesh, panic Minister and Samajwadi Party

president Akhilesh Yadav and a couple of Ministers and top bureaucrats tested positive for novel coronavirus infection as State recorded 20,510 cases in the last 24 hours. Officials claim that 68 people died of Covid-19 dur-

ing this period. Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Amit Mohan Prasad said 20,510 new cases of Covid

were reported in the State dur ing the past 24 hours. However, he said, 4,517

Covid-19 patients had recovered and at present 1,11,835 active cases were undergoing treatment.

So far 9,376 people had died of Covid-19 in the State, including 68 who succumbed to the deadly virus in the last 24 hours, he said

Yogi, Akhilesh, test corona +ve

PNS LUCKNOW

Panic has set in after Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Samajwadi Party president and former Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav and a couple of Ministers and top bureaucrats tested positive for coro-Yogi had isolated him-

self on Tuesday after some officials in his contact tested positive for the infection. "After initial symptoms, I got myself tested. My report is positive. I am in self-isolation and following doctors' advice. I am doing all works virtually," he tweeted, advising those who came in his contact to get themselves tested and take precautions.

There was a panic in the air after the CM tested positive. "When will the Government announce a lockdown? Is it waiting for Lucknow to perish before it goes for strict measures," a section officer in the Labour Department told this

reporter on Wednesday. Meanwhile a team of Health Department officials air-dashed to Ahmedabad and returned with 25,000 shots of Remdesivir injection, considered a key antiviral drug in the fight against Covid-19.

CBSE Class X board India's daily Covid count nears 2L

public places without a valid reason, prohibitory orders under Section 144 of CrPC and

1,40,65,622 (+1,94,108) DEATHS: 1,73,087 (+972) **RECOVERED:**

ANDHRA PRADESH: 9,37,049

Govt fast-tracks nod for 7 firms to make Remdesivir The move aims to ensure **Approval to double** smooth availability of the drug

Health workers conducts Covid-19 testing of passengers at Anand Vihar Bus

capacity to 78 lakh vials per month

PNS NEW DELHI

As the demand for Remdesivir surges in view of increasing Covid-19 cases from across the country, the Modi Government has fast tracked seven companies' applications to manufacture the critical anti-viral drug, allowing them to more than double their combined capacity to around 78 lakh vials per

markets in some States. Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers Mansukh Mandaviya on Tuesday gave fast-track approval to six manufacturers

which is being sold in black

to set up seven additional sites that could scale up the production capacity of Remdesivir by 1 million vials per month.

Another 30 lakh Another 30 lakh vials/month production is lined up.

This would ramp up the production capacity for manufacturing to around 78 lakh vials/month from the current 38.80 lakh vials per month.

Covid-19: State reports over 3k cases, 31 deaths in 24 hrs

Active caseload inches close to 20K

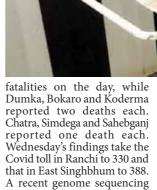
PNS RANCHI

harkhand reported more than 3,000 cases of Covid-19 infection and over 30 casualties on Wednesday, which took the active caseload closer to the 20,000 mark and the Covid toll up at 1,292, figures compiled by the National Health Mission (NHM) highlighted.

As per a bulletin released by the NHM, Ranchi accounted for 1,273 of the 3,198 cases and seven of the 31 fatalities on the day. On the other hand, East Singhbhum, the districts with highest reported cases of Covid deaths, accounted for nine casualties and 368 fresh cases, the NHM bulletin further stated.

Government records reveal that the fresh cases and casualties reported on Wednesday were the highest reported in a day this year. While Ranchi was the only district to report more 1,000 cases on Wednesday, at least seven districts — Bokaro, Deoghar, Koderma, Dhanbad, Hazaribag, Ramgarh and Sahebganj — reported more than 100 fresh cases of Covid infection.

As per NHM data, in Ranchi alone, recovered Dhanbad reported five Covid from the viral infection in the



tricts have presence of the UK mutant and double mutant strains of the virus. While the fresh cases broke all past records of 2021, the state also recorded its highest Covid recoveries in a day on Wednesday. As many as 1798 Covid patients, including 1212

confirmed that both these dis-

Body of a Covid-19 victim at Sadar Hospital in Ranchi on Wednesday Pioneer photo

day. However, the active caseload in Ranchi was still 7,648 — the highest in Jharkhand despite the recoveries on Wednesday. The active caseload in East

SInghbhum was up at 2,285 as the district reported 368 cases against 156 recoveries in the past 24 hours.

As per Government data, the state tested swab samples of 31,797 people on Wednesday, and more than 10 per cent of them were found infected. So far, as many as 1,47,792 people have been infected by the virus in Jharkhand and around 86.59

per cent of them have recov-

The doubling rate of infection in Jharkhand further dropped to 45.33 days against the national average of 80.05 days on Wednesday. As per government data, the growth rate of infection in the state was 1.54 per cent against the national average of 0.87 per

Meanwhile, Jharkhand administered the first dose of the vaccine against Covid-19 to 76,431 people and the second dose to 7,215 beneficiaries on Wednesday.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren pays tributes to former MLA Simon Marandi at Littipara on Wednesday

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Regular exercise or a 30-minute brisk walk in your neighbourhood park five days a week while following the social distancing norms can go a long way in beating Covid-19. Physical inactivity may land you in ICU or also prove fatal for you in case the pathogen catches you, according to a study that analysed nearly 50,000 Covid positive adults. Even patients who were

inconsistently active had lower chances for a severe Covid-19 infection, suggesting any Physical inactivity may land you in ICU or also prove fatal for you in case the virus clings to you, claims study

has benefit, said the findings published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine. This is a wake-up call for

the importance of healthy lifestyles and especially physical activity" said Robert E Sallis, a physician at the Kaiser Permanente Fontana Medical Centre in the US.

Researchers said the potential for regular physical activity to lower the severity of

amount of physical activity Covid-19 illness should be promoted by public health agencies and that pandemic control recommendations should include regular physical

Beat corona with 30-minute brisk walk daily!

activity across all population groups. "People who regularly exercise had the best chance of beating Covid-19, while people who were inactive did much worse," Sallis added.

For the study, the team identified 48,440 adults with a Covid-19 diagnosis from

January 1, 2020, to October 21, 2020. They found 6.4 per cent were consistently active and 14.4 per cent were consistently inactive, with the remainder falling in the inconsistently active category. Among all Covid-19 patients, 8.6 per cent were hospitalised, 2.4 per cent were admitted to the ICU, and 1.6 per cent died. "What surprised me the

most from this study was the strength of the association between inactivity and poor outcomes from Covid-19," said Deborah Rohm Young from the Kaiser Permanente Southern California. "Even after we included

variables such as obesity and smoking in the analysis, we still saw inactivity was strongly associated with much higher odds of hospitalisation, ICU admission, and death compared with moderate physical activity or any activity at all," Young added. The results showed that inactivity is strongly associated with poor Covid-19 outcomes, Sallis said, while suggesting walking 30 minutes a day, five days a week at a moderate pace can prevent Covid-19 affliction.

The UK mutant strain and double mutant strain of among Covid patients in genome sequencing, and the Covid-19 patients getting treatment inside Sadar hospital at the Covid ward, in Ranchi on Wednesday Ratan Lal I Pioneei press communique from the Government stated, asking res-

vaccination, claim scientists.

The presence of mutated virus strains in Ranchi and East Singhbhum could be one of the reasons for the sudden spike in Covid cases and fatalities, say experts. "The new mutated strains of the virus have a higher transmissibility, which could be one of the reasons for the spike in cases lately in Iharkhand," said the state coordinator of Indian Medical Association (IMA), Dr. Ajay

Kumar Singh. and East Ranchi presence of mutant strains of Singhbhum have reported more than 50 per cent of the fresh Covid cases that surfaced in Jharkhand in the month of April — a trend that could be attributed to mutation in the virus. As per government data, Ranchi alone has reportun-mutated Covid-19 virus or ed 8,384 of the 19,703 Covid

cases that surfaced in Jharkhand since April 1. East Singhbhum has reported 2,798 of the fresh cases this month.

Health officials said that the Covid samples sent for 80 degree Celsius and had CT value of less than 25. Of the 52 the entire genetic code of an organism, which in this case, is

genome sequencing to Bhubaneshwar were stored at samples from Jharkhand, 39 were selected for whole genome sequencing. Genomic sequencing is a testing process to map

the virus. While the UK strain of the virus was first found in European countries, the double mutant variant of the Covid-19 virus first emerged in India and has spread to other countries like the USA Germany and UK.

Quadruple murder: Tuition teacher sexually assaulted before death

PNS JAMSHEDPUR

Even after 48 hours since 42-year-lold Tata Steel employee Deepak Kumar killed his three family members and a tuition teacher at Kadma.

the police are yet to trace the killer.

Meanwhile, the postmortem report has suspected sexual assault on the trace has a large and the large and the trace has a large and the large and the large and the teacher identified as Rinky Ghosh. Her viscera have been sent to Ranchibased forensic science laboratory for further investigation. During the investigation, the police also found a towel with stains of semen over it.

According to information, four separate teams have been set up to nab Deepak and detect the case conclusively, but as of now the same are yet to trace the killer. "The teams are conducting a search operation to nab the prime accused. We had put Deepak's cellphone number on surveillance and have found his last location some-



where in Bistupur, but the cellphone is now switched off. We are confident to nab him soon," said a police offi-

OC, Kadma police station, Manoj Kumar Thakur said that the tuition teacher Rinky Ghosh was the last person to be murdered. "Moreover, Rinku was found lying in semi-nude condition. From her apparel we suspect that Deepak might have raped her before killing her, " said Thakur.

After killing his wife, two minor daughters and the 22-year-old tuition teacher at his residence in Tista road in Kadma, Deepak had called his friend Roshan Kumar to drop in at his place for lunch. Roshan who is a resident of Telco had come along with his wife, brother-in-law and a toddler daughter at Kadma. But Deepak who was in a killing spree had also attacked his friend and the friend' brother-inlaw Ankit Kumar with a hammer, leading to grievous injuries to Roshan and Ankit.

Both Ankit and Roshan are undergoing treatment at Tata Main Hospital, where the condition of Ankit (28) is said to be serious. Roshan managed to escape from Deepak's residence along with his wife, toddler daughter and brother-inlaw had informed Deepak's brotherin-law Binod Kumar, leading the lat-

Farmer's son Sushil ranked 45th in UPSC ESE

Villagers welcome Sushil in a road show **DEVASHISH BADAL** ■ GIRIDIH

Sushil Kumar Suman, son of Rameshwar Mandal, a resident of Karihari under Giridih district, has been successful in the **Engineering Services Examination** ESE of UPSC. Sushil was welcomed by villagers in a road show

on Wednesday.

Sushil got first position in matriculation examination from Rajdhanwar High School and after that he continued his further studies by giving tuitions due to poor financial condition of his family. He has been successful in the examination in the third

Sushil passed out in 2013 from IIT and runs his own coaching center in Delhi, where he prepares students for the GATE examination. He said that after passing from IIT, his job was in an American company, in which he



had to join in Hyderabad, but he quit his job and started his own coaching in Delhi. Sushil said that he had quit his job and made up

his mind for UPSC Engineering

On the success of his son,

that Sushil has achieved success by his hard work. Pushpa Devi, his

ESL Steel observes 'Tika Diwas'; 394 employees get vaccine shots

PNS ■ BOKARO

In tune with Prime Minister's 'Tika Diwas' call, Vedanta Electrosteel (ESL) conducted a COVID-19 vaccine drive for their eligible employees in coordination with the Jharkhand State Health Department.

Around 394 ESL employees, including business partners, received their vaccine shot at five centers inside the plant premises, informed a PR official of ESL.

Speaking on the occasion, Sadhana Verma, Head HSE, ESL Steel Limited said, we will continue to support the government in the nationwide vaccination drive. As a caring company, we would like our eligible employees to take the vaccine and protect themselves from the ill effects of the deadly virus.

"For ESL Steel Limited, people always come first, and we will walk that extra mile to ensure that our main strength, our people, is safe. I would urge all eligible employees to come forward and get them vaccinated," added Verma.



"For ESL Steel Limited, people always come first, and we will walk that extra mile to ensure that our main strength, our people, is safe.

I would urge all eligible employees to come forward and get them vaccinated," added Verma

In an effort to increase the reach of vaccines, the government has issued an order to organise COVID-19 vaccination settings, both at public and private premises, which has around 100 eligible and willing beneficiaries, she said.

ESL Steel Limited has already made adequate arrangements to sanitize its people in the plant by sanitizing its premises and by providing hand sanitizers and masks to keep its employees safe.

All are also maintaining social distancing in the plant. It will continue to follow COVID-19 protocol in its plant and offices and carry awareness drives for the community people, she said.

High-rise buildings become Covid hotspot in coal city

PANKAJ KUMAR ■ DHANBAD

As the number of corona positive patients as well as corona related deaths are increasing, the high rise buildings and dense colonies have emerged as hot spots in the coal city.

In last two days four deaths have been here including a noted dentist Dr KS Chang of *Katras locality and JP Dasaundhi an advocate by profession of Barwadda besides two others including an elderly woman in different covid hospitals . With these death the death from Corona in coal city has reached 138 .While Dr Chang died while treatment at Ranchi the advocate breathed his last at SNMMMCH.

The number of active cases too has crossed 8600 mark here including 505 undergoing treatment at different hos-

Incidentally ,high-rise buildings have emerged as new hot spots of coro-

facts worth taking note of!

na.positive cases besides densely populated areas. In the last one week over forty pos-

itive cases that surfaced after tests happen to be from such buildings. In a few cases both husband and wife have been found positive but work of contact tracing in those buildings have not begun

Civil surgeon Gopal Das said, contact tracing is the responsibility of ICDS cell and they can only say why there is delay in tracing of contacts who came in contact with positive persons.

Meanwhile, deputy commissioner US SINGH informed that 'Himmat app' has been launched in Dhanbad for those in home isolation. This app would guide them in different ways including providing them medical advice too. Singh said, 60 bed ICU at Sadar

Hospital premises would be made operational within a weeks time for critically

Completion of Fire Safety Awareness Week at BSL



PNS ■ BOKARO

The concluding ceremony of Fire Safety Awareness Week started from April 8 at Bokaro Steel Plant was organized in the premises of BSL's Central Fire Station. The Chief Guest of the program was Executive Director (works) Atanu Bhowmik.

On this occasion, Chief General Manager (Security & Fire Extinguishing Services) Amendra Jha, General

Hyderabad: Telangana report-

ed a relatively low daily Covid

tally of 2,157 new cases, the

state's health bulletin issued on

Wednesday stated. In contrast,

the state had reported 3,052

cases during the preceding 24

ples were tested during the 24-

hour period ending Tuesday 8

p.m. In contrast, the state had

tested 1,13,007 samples in the

Telangana had reported an all-

time daily high of 3,187 new

Earlier, on Saturday,

preceding 24-hour cycle.

Officials said 72,364 sam-

hours.

Rajesh Sharma, Manager (ED Operational Secretariat) NK Behera, General Manager (Fire Fighting Services) Kumar Rajnish, Asst. General Manager (Fire Fighting Services) SN Mishra along with other officers and employees of the Fire Fighting Services Department were present. At the beginning

Manager (Fire Extinguishing

of the program, Mr. Sharma welcomed the Chief Guest and gave detailed

cases, the highest since August,

from a record testing size of

the state's cumulative tally to

3,34,738 the bulletin issued by

were reported dead due to the

virus, during the last 24 hours

taking the death toll to 1,780.

The director of public health

and family welfare, said that

technically the state's fatality

rate has risen even though it

remains 0.53 per cent because

the national average has dipped

the state government stated.

The latest daily tally takes

Meanwhile, eight persons

information about various programs carried out.

Addressing the personnel during the program, Chief Guest Bhowmik gave a message to further increase fire prevention inspections and improve housekeeping.

He called for strengthening the system of firefighting equipment and insisted on being equipped with advanced technology for fire prevention keeping in view the current sit-

Greater Hyderabad

reported the highest

tally of 361 cases

while its bordering

districts, Medchal-

Malkajgiri, and

Rangareddy districts

reported 245, and

206 cases

respectively

slightly from 1.30 per cent to

1.20 per cent, during the course

of the last 24 hours.

'QAT' gives

PNS ■ DALTONGANJ

alamu police's QAT (quick

Launched just a few days ago by the SP Palamu Sanjeev Kumar this QAT comprising 21 combatants armed to the teeth and possessing mental and physical toughness to override any challenging situation has proved its worth in one anti naxal operation and in one other drive against the organized criminals in this short span of coming into the formation said the immediate commanding officer of QAT K Vijay Shankar assistant

SP Sanjeev Kumar said this outfit is equipped with a survival kit to enable it to brave the vagaries of Nature as well as to tame and contain the naxals, criminals, gangsters etc at the shortest notice to act and inter-

Answering a query if this outfit is trained in jungle warfare to which the

includes 16,892 persons who

are in home/institutional iso-

query if this QAT be seen as an alternate to the CRPF or a substitute of it or a replacement of the CRPF K Vijay Shankar said the CRPF is an elite force and has a long standing expertise and specializing in tackling extremism, countering insurgency and is far more and advanced equipped force and so even remotely ours QAT is not any

Shankar said the formation of the QAT is indicative of our boys' capability to take on the challenges thrown by the extremists and the criminals on their own and thus not to look towards the CRPF every now and then even for small sur-

bodies against the spike proteins and therefore don't allow foothold to the virus. Multiple mutations at critical locations within the spike proteins create a variant which generally change their character reflected both in their infectiousness and lethality. This unprecedented speed of the illness now reclaiming

BY DR RAJENDRA KUMAR JHA

SARS COV 2 infection leading to the disease called

COVID 19, has taken a new

Avatar. . This is clearly more

infectious, is spreading much too quickly and tends to attack

a greater number of people

through index cases in com-

parison to its previous form.

This is conspicuously different

as it easily involves children,

young adults and females in

large numbers and at times crit-

protein S2 of the virus, which

attaches to human ACE recep-

tors thus allowing its entry into

the body cells and consequently

Vaccines generate anti-

damage the system.

As we know it is the spike

ically too!

densely populated areas of Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Bengal in a short time is a matter of great concern. Now it is upstaging our infrastructure preparedness with much larger death numbers. Such is the situation that only three days back one of my friend had to literally struggle to find a bed in hospitals across the capital city of Jharkhand for one of his COVID infected family members. Such helpour lifetime and deserves thorough understanding.

Covid-19 update — 10 important

Let us update ourselves on

■In order to acquire herd immunity "against this virus, we must get vaccinated in large numbers and as quickly as possible by expanding the base for vaccine accessibility. Those who are obese and suffering from co- morbidities such as diabetes and high blood pressure even if they are younger than 45 should be made eligible without much

■We are witnessing COVID disease even amongst those who have taken vaccine. They often forget that proper antibodies are not achieved until two to four weeks following second dose of the vaccines has been taken .

■ This is now very evident that some of those who have taken both vaccine dose successfully have developed covid . Most likely these cases are as a result of significant mutations of the original virus which has found foothold at our surroundings

■Don't miss the second dose even if you developed covid 19 before you could get the second dose. Complete the second dose by scheduling vaccination after 28 th day of the illness. Remember antibodies produced by the vaccine last longer than the infection generated antibodies.

■Only today we have received genome sequencing results of RTPCR positive cases from Jharkhand as circulating in our state.

■ It is now established that four out of thirty nine patients which constitute around 10%

lessness has never been seen in (4/39) of the studied samples are harbouring dangerous double mutants (B.1.617 lineage) , an Indian variant, which are partially refractory to available

> ■9/20 patients (approx 20%) Studied patients whose nasopharyngeal swab were subjected to genome sequencing, had famous UK variant (B.1.1.7 lineage)which is relatively more infectious than the original strain of the virus but less infectious than the aforesaid Indian variant, is better contained by vaccine produced

> ■However dangerous South African and Brazil variants have not been found yet in latest genome study conducted at Regional centre for genomic studies at Bhubaneswar,for Jharkhand published on 14 th April 2021

antibodies.

■However there is some good news too. The sero survey done a month and half back shows that around forty five percent population of Jharkhand have developed antibodies against the SARS COV 2 virus and if it can be believed than we are not far away from reaching a stable state if the above national sero survey is to be really believed.

■Wearing a mask , keeping adequate distance preferably in open and ventilated surroundings and regular hand washing continues to be as important a way to protect each and all . At the end Every one has to trust that it is a temporary phase of disruption and very soon we will overcome this too. Keep your faith intact!!

The author is former Professor Head, Department of medicine, RIMS, Ranchi.

more teeth to Palamu police

Paction team) is proving a shot in the arms of the district police said sources.

superintendent of police Palamau.

SP said this outfit has had its

combat training at the hands of the CRPF here.

replacement of the CRPF.

gical intervention.

Reminded that security forces in the jungles tracking or smoking out naxals from the holes have faced episodes of the snake bites and striking by the lightning in Palamu to which Vijay Shankar said our boys will handle it as this outfit has pouches of life saving medicines

Telangana reports 2,157 new Covid cases The number of active cases ed the highest tally of 361 has jumped to 25,459 which

A total of 821 people have recovered from the pandemic Nizamabad district, borduring the last 24 hours, taking the cumulative recoveries to 3,07,499. The state's recovery rate has slipped further to 91.86 from the previous 92.21 per cent but remains above the

also slipped from 89.5 to 88.9 per cent. Greater Hyderabad report-

national average which has

cases while its bordering districts, Medchal-Malkajgiri, and Rangareddy districts reported 245, and 206 cases respective-

dering Maharashtra, reported 187 new cases, while Sangareddy reported 135 cases, and Jagtiyal reported 107 cases. Mulugu and Mancherial

districts reported single digit cases of four and seven while all the remaining districts reported fresh cases in double IANS

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Dist Admin launches Covid Live Dashboard

Information on availability of beds in hospitals made available

PNS RANCHI

 N^{ow} , one will get information about the status of beds in private and government hospitals of Ranchi district for Covid-19 treatment. Deputy Commissioner, Ranchi Chhavi Ranjan inaugurated the Covid-19 Live Dashboard online on Wednesday

According to the administration complete information can be found on the live dashboard by visiting the official website of Ranchi district ranchi.nic.in. With the availability of beds in various private and government hospitals on the Covid-19 Live Dash Board, information on Covid case data, active cases, death from



corona infection, vaccination etc will be available on the web-

Based on the information received from various hospitals on the dashboard, the data related to beds will be uploaded on the site. Anyone can check the availability of beds at any time by visiting the site.

Meanwhile, the DC also chaired a meeting with private pathological laboratories operators here on Wednesday. In

the meeting, all lab operators were instructed to carry out Covid-19 tests as per their capacity. Ranjan said that all private labs should increase the number of tests and examine the sample to the best of their

During the meeting, the DC took information from all rivate lab operators about the lab's capacity and daily tests. He instructed the concerned officer to notice the lab, which is testing less than the capacity. Notices were given to SRL Lab, S Sharan Lab and Medica. The DC instructed the concerned officer to carry out the necessary investigation if the number of investigations by the lab

Pioneer photo

During the meeting, Ranjan instructed all private lab operators to clear the backlog to delay in giving reports, make the report available to the concerned cell and person of the district administration in time.

Private lab operators were severely reprimanded by DC in the meeting for lack of capacity and due to negligence in the work of investigation. He said that common people should not have any kind of trouble. Magistrates will conduct random checking of Private Labs. Strict action will be taken if the lab is closed and samples are not being checked.

The DC asked the private

lab operators to make inquiry counters in the lab so that the people coming for the test do not have any problem so that people can get the information related to the test easily. He said that if anyone wants to get information related to the investigation from the SRF ID, then it should also be arranged at the counter.



Chief Minister Hemant Soren addresses a election campaign rally in support of party candidate Hafizul Hassan Karon, ahead of Madhupur by-elections, on Wednesday



Traffic police personnel try to stop a motorcyclist during mask checking drive in

BJP accuses Deoghar administration of working as JMM worker

Party complaints against Cong MLA Irfan Ansari

Ranchi: Accusing the Deoghar district administration of working as JMM workers in Madhupur, the Opposition BJP has demanded the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure fair polls in the constituency. The BJP with this demand submitted a memorandum to Chief Electoral Officer Ranchi. The delegation was headed by BJP State secretary, Subodh Singh 'Guddu'.

The BJP in its memorandum has stated that Deoghar district administration is working as JMM workers. The BJP delegation through its memo-

randum highlighted that recently the Deoghar DC distributed pamphlets with information about the places he will visit. Singh said, "The Deoghar DC through his visit will highlight the various welfare schemes of the state govern-ment which is indirectly campaigning in support of JMM candidate. The BJP state secretary said that the act of Deoghar dis-

trict administration is against the service code of conduct of a Civil Servant and also against the model code of conduct. The BJP also alleged that apart from this today (April 14), Jamtara MLA İnfran Ansari performed puja at Baba Baidhyanath Dham temple and

also uttered communal

The BJP delegation stated that Ansari performed puja at Baba Baidhyanath Dham temple on the intervention of Deoghar district administration which is against the rules and regulations of Baba Baidhyanath dham temple authority. It may be noted that only Hindus are allowed to perform puja at Baba Baidhyanath

Few days back the BJP had made a similar complaint against the Deoghar district administration of removing BJP flags and banners from houses. The BJP delegation had stated that while the JMM flags and banners were not removed by district adminis-

removed by district administration.

In Madhupur bypoll there is a direct fight between JMM candidate and minority affairs minister Hafizul Hassan and BIP candidate Ganga Naryan Singh who switched sides from AJSU last month. The campaigning at Madhupur has reacted peak with Chief Minister Hemant Soren camping in Mathematical Theorem 1997 ing in Madhupur for days. The BJP too has put its senior leaders including BJP legislative party leader and senior leader Babulal Marandi, BJP state president Deepak Prakash and others. Thursday is the last day of campaigning, while the election will be held on April 17. The results will be declared on

INBRIEF

SETH FOR DEVELOPING KHELGAON AS HOSPITAL

MP Sanjay Seth spoke to Union Coal Minister Prahlad Joshi about the Corona explosion in Ranchi highlighting the shortage of beds in hospitals. Seth urged the minister that Ranchi's Khelgaon, which is being looked after by CCL, has enough space. He urged the minister that CCL can provide beds, oxygen cylinders and other necessary resources here. By doing this, the large population of Ranchi will also get relief and their proper treatment will also be done. Seth said that the above work can be done through CSL and other items of CCL. Prahlad Joshi assured him that he is talking to the CMD soon on this

SEVERAL TRAINS FROM MUMBAI TO ECR STATIONS

For the convenience of passengers, many special trains are being operated from Mumbai to various stations of East Central Railway. Apart from this, the operating period of special trains running earlier has also been increased. All special trains are fully reserved. Passengers are requested to follow the Covid-19 Potocal during the journey. The trains include 01153/01154 Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus-Danapur Special and 01303/01304 Solapur-Guwahati-Solapur Special, 01427/01428 Pune-Bhagalpur-Pune Special, 01429/01430 Pune-Danapur-Pune Special, 09005/09006 Bandra Terminus-Barauni-Bandra Terminus Special and 09097/09098 Bandra Terminus-Barauni-Bandra Terminus Special among others.

JPA WELCOMES CBSE DECISION

President of the Jharkhand Parents Association Ajay Rai has welcomed the CBSE's decision to postpone the 10th to 12th exam. Rai said that the manner in which Corona has wreaked havoc everywhere and common people are traveling everywhere, the State government has not been able to provide beds for the victims of infection within the entire Jharkhand State including the



Capital Ranchi. It has been, in the circumstances of people dving in yearning, this decision of the central government is a relief for every parent, which they welcome, he said

ambedkar jayanti celebrated at sail

Baba Saheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar Jayanti was celebrated in a safe environment in SAIL units in Ranchi today following all COVID protocols. In the leadership of Kamakshi Jha, ED (Safety), Ajay Arora ED



ED(CET), senior officials of SAIL Ranchi Units offered floral tributes to Baba Sahab Bhim Rao Ambedkar. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Jayanti was also celebrated in the SC / ST cell of SAIL Ranchi. All employees remembered with gratitude the invaluable contributions of Baba Sahab

(RDCIS) and Jagdish Arora,

BSL PAYS TRIBUTES TO DR AMBEDKAR



year, on the occasion of Babasaheb's birth anniversary, Director-incharge of BSL, Amarendu Prakash garlanded the statue of Dr.Ambedkar located in Sector 4. On this occasion, Executive Director (Medical and Health Services) of BSL Dr. AK Singh, Executive Director (Projects) and Additional Charge (Personnel and Administration) R. Kushwaha, Chief General Manager (Personnel) Pawan Kumar and Chief General Manager (Technical) Laxmi Das were also present along with other officers.

Students give mixed reactions on cancellation of CBSE X exam

Govt cancels CBSE Class 10 exams and postpones Class 12 exams

PNS RANCHI

The Union Education Ministry's ▲ decision to cancel the CBSE Class X and postponing the Class XII examinations 2021 has drawn mixed reac-

Some of them are satisfied with the decision, whereas others are asking the ministry to conduct the exams with full Covid 19 protocols. Surbhi Priya, a Class X student from Bridgeford School, Tupudana said, "The decision to cancel the Class X examination by CBSE is a welcome step in larger interest of students. As the Corona cases are surging day-by-day with the situation becoming out of control from State and Centre it is students who have to take their own safety.'

Echoing the views of Surbhi Priya, her mother Ekta Sinha says, "We cannot afford our kids to take risk in the name of examination. We appreciate the decision of the Centre to cancel the examination as during examination hundreds of students gather at examination centres. It is a high risk zone and there are chances of spreading of infection.

However, there are students, who are happy with the decision to cancel the class X examination but are doubtful on the decision of promoting students based on internal

A class X student from Surendranath Centenary School requesting anonymity said, "The decision on promotion of students based on internal assessment is doubtful as it will be the prerogative of class teachers to give grade to students. The students who are favourites of the class teacher will get good grades despite the fact that they are good or average in

Moreover, there are students who opine that CBSE should conduct examinations full of corona protocols Anil Sharma, father of a boy whose kid is a student at DPS Ranchi said, "Offices and business establishments Commission of India is conducting elections in different states and bypoll why students have to suffer. Examinations could be conducted with full corona protocols such as by increasing the number of examination

There are also students who opined that if CBSE Class X examinations can be cancelled why not competitive examinations. The Ministry of Education cancelled the CBSE Class 10 exams and postponed the Class 12

This decision was made in a meeting held by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and CBSE officials today.

The Centre decided to postpone the examination after Opposition leaders such as Arvind Kejriwal and Rahul Gandhi have appealed to the Centre to postpone board exams. Parents, child rights bodies, several state governments have also made similar appeals to the centre to reconsider the plan to conduct offline CBSE board exams next month.

The CBSE Class X examination was to commence from May and was to run till June mid.

formed an Oxygen Task Force

meant to ensure continuous

availability and supply of oxy-

gen in various hospitals of the

RIMS to get 3 additional RT PCR machines to speed up Covid testing

Health Minister chairs meeting of governing board

Health Minister Banna Gupta on Wednesday approved the pro-curement of three additional RT PCR machines at Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS) to speed up the process of Covid testing in Ranchi, the worst affected district in terms of caseload in Jharkhand.

erning board of the State-run hospital, Gupta said that in the wake of the growing cases of Covid-19 infection in the state, the government has decided to add more teeth to RIMS' Covid-combatting machinery.

The minister also approved the procurement of 256 Slice CT Scan machines for the Radiology wing and Trauma Centre at RIMS, besides opening vacancies for four scientists and eight lab technicians in the Mircobiology wing of the largest State-run hospital in Jharkhand. The new recruitments, he said, will help in research related to viruses and other micro-organisms.

The meeting on Wednesday was virtually attended by Health Secretary KK Soan, Ranchi MP Saniay Seth and Kanke MLA Samri Lal. RIMS Director Dr. Kameshwar Prasad and other senior doctors of the hospital were also present, sources said.

"Given the current Covid-19 situation in the state, it is important to speed up the testing process. The additional RT PCR machines will help RIMS test more samples on a given day and also clear the backlogs,"

The sudden rise in demand for



Health Minister Banna Gupta during an online RIMS board meeting , on Wednesday Pioneer photo

Covid tests flooded labs in Ranchi with swab samples in the past couple of weeks, which eventually led to a delay of over 48 hours by private labs in providing RT PCR test reports to residents. As per NHM data, about 25,000 swab samples were still pending for tests.

The second wave of Covid-19 has rung the alarm bell for the Jharkhand government. Amid an unprecedented rise in cases and casualties, the state is also faced against crisis of beds and medicines used for treating Covid patients, health officials said As per records with the National Health Mission (NHM), the state has been reporting more than 2000 fresh cases of infection and over a dozen Covid deaths every day on an average in the past one week.

Meanwhile, the health department has sought 1500 ventilators from the Centre as most of the 700odd beds with ventilators in Ranchi have been occupied. The state also received around 1500 vials of Remdesivir injections for treatment of Covid patients earlier this week after the health minister apprised the Centre about the crisis in the state.

Besides decisions related to strengthening the infrastructure for the fight against Covid-19 virus, Gupta on Wednesday also approved procurement of various equipment for the cardiology wing of RIMS. The equipment will help in cardiac surgeries and placing pacemakers in patients in need of such surgical inter-

The state, however, is yet to get genome sequencer to detect new and mutated strains of virus without having to send samples to Bhubaneshwar. Covid samples recently sent for genome sequencing confirmed the presence of double mutant and UK mutant strains of Covid-19 in Ranchi and Jamshedpur.

Several officers deputed to control Covid menace in State

Oxygen Task Force formed PNS RANCHI

The State government on ■ Wednesday deputed several IAS and JAS officers in different capacities to curb the Covid menace in Jharkhand. The government has given additional charge to Director, Primary Education Bhuvanesh Pratap Singh, to join the Health and Family Welfare department with immediate effect.

Singh has been assigned the duty of monitoring and executing works for home isolation of Covid-19 patients across the State and ensure execution of government orders on the same.



State. Director Industries JK Singh has been made the Secretary of the Task Force, while Transport Commissioner KK Pasi and Joint Secretary

Rural Development Aditya Ranjan have been made members. Director, Medicine, Ritu Sahay has been made the member secretary in the Task Force.
The Oxygen Task Force is mandated to coordinate with the Oxygen producing units and ensure that the hospitals and health centres across the State get uninterrupted supply of oxygen.

Also, 11 Jharkhand Administrative Service officers have been asked to join the Health department and Ranchi district to help in Covid-19 related works. The officers, who have been asked to join the Health department include AK Mishra, AK Singh, VK Gupta, AN Ambashta, OC Odiya, Aseem Kispotta, Ravishankar Vidyarthi and RN Alok. Ravi Shankar, Sanjay Kumar and Rajesh Kumar have been deputed at Ranchi district for Covid-19 related works.



Chief Minister Hemant Soren pays tribute to Dr B R Ambedkar on his birth anniversary at Chandankiyari in Madhupur on

Navy Chief calls for better synergy among Quad navies

Underlining the high level of synergy among the navies of the Quadrilateral countries, Navy Chief Admiral Karambir Singh on Wednesday said these forces can come together in a plug-and-play mechanism in case of a military need in the

Indio-Pacific region.

Making this observation here during the ongoing threeday Raisina Dialogue, the Navy chief said there is immense interoperability between the navies of the Quad grouping.

His remarks came months after the Quad navies including India, US, Japan and Australia carried out the Malabar series of naval drills off the Indian

Participating in the Dialogue inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, Admiral Philip Scot Davidson, Commander of the US's Indo-Pacific Command, identified the Quad as a strategic opportunity diplomatically, military and economically, as he designated China as "the greatest strategic threat" to rules-based international order.

The two Navy top commanders during the conclave held virtually discussed the potential of the Quad and agreed that there are many new spheres of engagement where



the grouping can come together and also include more likeminded countries

Asked about the future of Quad military in terms of joint patrolling and others, the Indian Navy chief said the Quad started as a consultative grouping and has evolved and grown organically. "There is no dearth of issues that it can handle and we have a robust engagement with the navies of all Quad members," he said.

The Navy chief said the Quad navies already enjoy high degree of interoperability and highlighted that the Malabar exercise started with the US in

Similarly, he pointed out that India has been carrying bilateral naval exercises with Japan since 2012 and with the Australian Navy for the last six years. "So if an opportunity

He said India is the only G-

20 country to walk the talk on

the Paris climate agreement

and "we have done more than

we promised". The Minister

said that the frequency of

abnormal (weather) events has

increased but "let us not forget

that this is not a new phe-

today was caused 100 years ago.

European and American coun-

tries and China, in the last 30

years, emitted (greenhouse

is suffering... India is suffering

because of the actions of oth-

ers," he said, adding that his-

torical responsibility is a very

important aspect in climate

(historical responsibility), and

we will not allow anybody to

mon threats, but those who

have polluted will have to act

more, he said adding that they

(developed countries) com-

mitted in Copenhagen, 100

tries mitigate climate change.

forget it," Javadekar said.

"We cannot just forget it

Everyone is facing com-

What we are suffering

arises, we have the capability and capacity to come together in almost a plug and play mechanism," he said.

The US Navy commander said the Quad has tremendous potential for cooperation, going far beyond the security sphere. "The vaccine approach is a powerful signal to the region that the Quad is working for the common good outside these four countries," he said.

Noting that the Quad has gained momentum, Davidson said, "It's a diamond of democracies in region... We should think about it in broadest possible terms."

He also said China seeks to exploit the current global pandemic with increased military aggression throughout the Indo-Pacific. He added that China's intent is to undermine international law and norms.

Well done, Modi! says Cong after Govt cancels CBSE Class X exams

Soon after the CBSE Class 12 examinations were postponed and Class 10 exams cancelled, the Congress took to social media and mes-

saged "well done Modi ji".

Congress leaders Rahul
Gandhi and his sister
Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had been rallying for putting off the board exams

The decision was taken by the Prime Minister after a meeting with Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' and other top officials amid growing demands for cancelling or postponing the board exams as Coronavirus cases have seen an unprecedented surge across the country in a deadly second wave.

"Well done Modi ji, listening to sound advice from Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi and the Congress will go a long way in mending our nation. It is our democratic duty to work together for the betterment of

our people. It's good to see

BJP finally put nation over

ego," the Congress tweeted. After announcement, Priyanka

sion must be taken for Class

"Glad the Government has finally cancelled the 10th standard exams however a final decision must be taken for the 12th grade too. Keeping students under undue pressure until June makes no sense. It's unfair. I urge the Government to decide now," she tweeted.

She had earlier said it would be "downright irresponsible" of boards like the CBSE to force students to sit for the exams in the circumstances. "Board exams either cancelled, rescheduled or arranged in a manner that does not require the physical presence of children at crowded exam centres," she wrote last week to Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank last week.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, who had also urged the government to postpone or cancel the exams, also welcomed the move.

"I am glad that the exams have been cancelled/post-poned. This is a great relief for lakhs of students and their parents," he tweeted.

Ambedkar gave a strong base to Independent India: Modi

Paying tribute to the framer of the Indian Constitution Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said Ambedkar gave a strong foundation to independent India so that the nation could move forward while strength-

ening its democratic heritage. President Ram Nath Kovind also paid rich tributes to Ambedkar on his 130th birth celebrations. Prime Minister also

released four books related to Bhim Rao Ambedkar, whose birth anniversary falls on April 14. The books are written by Kishor Makwana. Addressing

Association of Indian Universities' 95th annual meet and a national seminar of vicechancellors through video conferencing, Modi said that Babasaheb Ambedkar gave a strong foundation to independent İndia.

"Babasaheb Ambedkar gave a strong foundation to independent India so that the nation could move forward while strengthening its democratic heritage," he said.

The event was hosted by Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad. Paying tributes to Dr Ambedkar, Modi said in a

tweet, "I bow to the great Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar on his birth anniversary. His struggle to bring the deprived sections of the society into the mainstream will continue to be an example for every generation."

'Today, the country is also working to spread the message of Babasaheb to the people. Places associated with Baba Saheb are being developed as Panch Tirtha", said the Prime

On account of the Covid-19 surge, the authorities are keeping the celebrations in a low key.

President Ram Nath Kovind urged fellow citizens to "imbibe his ideals in our lives by learning from his life and ideas and contribute towards building a strong and prosperous India".

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu remembered Ambedkar

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu remembered Ambedkar for bridging the gaps of

inequality for "bridging the gaps of

Senior BJP leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh paid tribute to Ambedar saying Baba Saheb should not just be seen as a Dalit icon. He was a renowned name among world intellectuals not just in India, but globally as well.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla paid floral tribute to Ambedkar saying "Owing to Babasaheb's visions, India progressed at a fast pace after independence that benefitted all fractions of society."

The Centre has announced April 14 as a public holiday for all Central Government offices including industrial units.

India will raise its climate ambitions but not under pressure: Javadekar

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India on Tuesday made it clear that it will raise its climate ambitions but not under pressure and that it was suffering because of the mistakes of others and "is not responsible for climate change that is happening". Environment Union

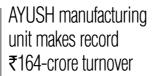
Minister Prakash Javadekar in his speech after a meeting with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian at the French Embassy also said that India will not allow anybody to forget their historical responsibil-

French minister le Drian said the consequences will be disastrous if the world is not able to limit global warming to 2 degrees Celsius, or even 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to

That's why it is absolutely indispensable that all countries increase their climate commitments by the time the COP26 takes place in Glasgow, as required by the Paris

Agreement, he said.
"This increase in ambition must include setting new nationally determined contributions by 2030 and also longterm strategies to achieve carbon neutrality. We must stop building new coal-based power plants and it is essential that we progressively stop this mode of electricity production at a global level," le Drian said.

Javadekar said, "We will complete our commitments, raise our ambitions but not under pressure. And we will also ask countries to provide finance and technological support and about their (climate)



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

 \mathbf{I}^{n} view of increasing demand for AYUSH products and services by people amid Covid-19 pandemic, the Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corporation Limited (IMPCL), a public sector manufacturing unit of the Union Ministry of AYUSH, has recorded its highest-ever turnover of ₹164 crore in 2020-21.

The company has recorded an all-time high profit of approximately ₹12 crore, the Union AYUSH Ministry said in a statement here on Tuesday.
Its previous highest

turnover was ₹97 crore in 2019-

Adding another feather in IMPCI's cap, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation recommended its 18 Ayurvedic products for WHO-GMP/COPP certification subject to certain observations in

The WHO provides World Health Organization, Good Manufacturing Practices Certificate of Pharmaceutical Product (WHO-GMP/CoPP)" certification to companies after conducting an inspection.

This certification is an endorsement of the quality of IMPCL's products. It will help IMPCL to commence export of quality medicines.

IMPCL is one of the most trusted manufacturers of AYUSH medicines in the country and is known for the authenticity of its formulations.

billion dollars per year... but where is the money. There is no money in sight," he said. "During the COVID-19 pandemic, it was able to cater Under the Copenhagen Accord, developed countries to the needs of the country in the shortest time, probably the committed to a goal of mobilising 100 billion dollar a year by first company in the country to provide Immuno boosting medicines as AurakshaImmuno 2020 to help developing coun-Boosting Kit.

Maldivian Foreign Minister to begin two-day India visit today



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Maldivian foreign minister Abdulla Shahid will begin a two-day India visit on Thursday with a focus on further deepening of ties between the two countries.

Announcing the visit, the Ministry of External Affairs ther momentum to the close bilateral cooperation. It said Shahid will hold

talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday covering bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest. "Foreign minister Shahid's

visit is expected to lend further momentum to the close bilateral cooperation between the two countries," the MEA said in a statement

It said Shahid will participate in the Raisina Dialogue in virtual mode.

Maldives is India's key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean Region and occupies a central and special place in the prime minister's vision of 'SAGAR' — 'Security and Growth for All in the Region, the MEA said

Vardhan launches initiative to spread awareness about nutrition



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan has launched an initiative aimed at spreading awareness about nutrition and locally available nutritious food, fruits, and vegetables, a statement said on Wednesday

Vijnana Bharati (Vibha), Global Indian Scientists and Technocrats' (GIST) Forum, Vigyan Prasar, and Pravasi Bharatiya Academic and Scientific Sampark (PRAB-HASS) have come together to launch mission "Aahaar Kranti" with the motto of 'Uttam Aahaar-Uttam Vichaar' (Good Diet-Good Cognition).

Launching the initiative Tuesday, Vardhan said, 'Today, when the country is reeling under the onslaught of

a pandemic like COVID-19, a balanced diet serves as a special tool to reduce the impact of the pandemic. At such a time, the need to create awareness about the importance of a balanced diet has become more vital than ever before."

The statement said the "Aahaar Kranti" movement is designed to address the peculiar problem being faced by India and the world -- hunger and diseases in abundance.

Studies estimate that India produces as much as two times the amount of calories it consumes. However, many in the country are still malnourished. The root cause of this strange phenomenon is the lack of nutritional awareness, it said.

The movement proposes to address the problem by working to rouse the people to the

Access to professional education

values and richness of India's traditional diet, to the healing powers of local fruits and vegetables, and to the miracles of a balanced diet, it added.

"Aahaar Kranti" will renew the focus on nutritionally balanced diets replete in locally sourced fruits and vegetables.

While Vijnana Bharati (Vibha) and GIST Forum initiated the programme, several other agencies have also joined hands and agreed to pool in their expertise and resources, the statement said.

Besides various central and state government ministries and agencies, the Department of Science and Technology's autonomous body Vigyan Prasar and PRABHASS are a part of this collaborative effort. More organisations will join the mission as it proceeds, it said.

Cong always striving towards achieving Ambedkar's goal: Sonia



ongress president Sonia Gandhi on Wednesday said her party is always striving towards achieving the path shown by Bhim Rao Ambedkar of building a strong nation where every citizen progresses without discrimination.

Paying rich tributes to Ambedkar on his 130th birth anniversary, she said the Congress has always empha-sised on the establishment of an egalitarian society.

'Today, when the thinking of conservatism and discrimination is trying to weaken the society, the Congress party is always conscious that every section of the country should discrimination, we all together build a strong nation. This is the unshakable path of Babasaheb," she said in her

"Congress party is always conscious that every section of the country should progress equally and without discrimination, we all together build a strong nation. This is the unshakable path of Babasaheb," she said.

"In accordance with Baba Saheb's ideals, the Congress party has always emphasised the establishment of an egalitarian society in the country and waged a decisive struggle against centuries of discrimination, untouchability and

inequality. "Today if even the weakest person in the margins of society can reach the highest position of the country in a democratic manner, then this is our biggest achievement in 73 years and is a true tribute to Baba Saheb's dreams and aspira-

tions," the Congress chief said. Ex-Chief Election Commissioner GVG

Commissioner Dr GVG Krishnamurty passed away on Wednesday morning due to a prolonged illness. He was 86. He is survived by his wife Padma Murty, son and senior Supreme Court advocate G.V. Rao, and daughter Dr Radha Bodapati.

Mourning the loss of an illustrious former member of ECI family, Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra recalled that Dr GVG Krishnamurty made exemplary contribution during his tenure in the Commission as Election Commissioner from 1st October 1993 to 30th September 1996.

Global warming making Indian monsoon seasons stronger, more chaotic: Study

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

¬limate change will make ∠summer monsoon rainfall in India stronger and more erratic, according to a study that predicts extremely wet years in the future, with potentially grave consequences for over a billion people's wellbeing, economy, food systems and agriculture.

The study, published in the journal Earth System Dynamics, compared more than 30 state-of-the-art climate models from all around the world.

"We have found robust evidence for an exponential dependence: For every degree Celsius of warming, monsoon rainfalls will likely increase by about 5 per cent," said study lead author Anja Katzenberger from the Potsdam-Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK) in Germany.

Greenhouse effect Global warming



to confirm previous studies but find that global warming is increasing monsoon rainfall in India even more than previously thought. It is dominating monsoon dynamics in the 21st century," Katzenberger

The researchers noted that more rainfall is not necessarily a good thing for the farming sector in India and its neighbouring countries.

Crops need water espe-

period, but too much rainfal during other growing states can harm plants — including rice on which the majority of India's population is depending for sustenance," said study co-author Julia Pongratz from Ludwig-Maximilian University (LMU) in

This makes the Indian economy and food system highly sensitive to volatile monsoon patterns," said

A look into the past underlines that human behaviour is behind the intensification of rainfall, according to the researchers.

human-made forcings have begun to overtake slow natural changes occurring over many millennia, they said. At first, high sun-light blocking aerosol loadings led

Starting in the 1950s,

a decline in rainfall. However, from 1980 onwards, greenhouse gasinduced warming has become the deciding driver for stronger and more erratic Monsoon seasons.

to subdued warming and thus

"We see more and more that climate change is about unpredictable weather extremes and their serious consequences," said group leader and co-author Anders Levermann from PIK and Columbia University in the

"Because what is really on the line is the socio-economic well-being of the Indian subcontinent," Levermann

not Govt largesse, says SC seats notified by the Centre.

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

ccess to professional edunot a "Governmental largesse" and state has an affirmative obligation to facilitate its reach at all levels, the Supreme Court has

This obligation assumes far greater importance for students whose background imposes formidable obstacles on their path to access quality education, the apex court A bench of Justices D Y

Chandrachud and M R Shah made these observations in a verdict on separate pleas filed by two students from Ladakh who were not admitted to MBBS degree course in medical colleges here despite due nomination by the Union Territory and in terms of the

While the right to pursue higher (professional) educa-

a fundamental right in Part III of the Constitution, it bears emphasis that access to professional education is not a governmental largesse. Instead, the state has an affirmative obligation to facilitate access to education, at all levels," the bench said in its judgement delivered on April

"This obligation assumes far greater importance for students whose background (by virtue of such characteristics as caste, class, gender, religion, disability and geographical region) imposes formidable obstacles on their path to accessing quality education," it

While allowing the peti-

tions filed by the two students, the top court directed that the admission formalities be comtion has not been spelt out as pleted immediately and, in any event, within a week. The bench noted that both

> nated by the Ladakh administration for admission to MBBS degree course under the 'central pool' seats set apart by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It noted that one of them has been allocated seat at Lady

Hardinge Medical College while the other has been assigned to Maulana Azad Medical College. 'We have been constrained to take up the issue

under Article 32, since the fundamental rights of students from Ladakh to pursue professional education are implicated," it said.

Krishnamurty dies PNS ■ NEW DELHI Former Chief Election the petitioners were nomi-

Modi, Didi two sides of same coin: RaGa

 $B_{\text{paign in Bengal for the}}^{\text{eginning his election cam-}}$ Left-Congress-ISF alliance in Bengal Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday launched a massive broadside against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee saying each was complementary to the other insofar as the State's contemporary politics was con-

Attacking Modi for trying to defile Bengal's rich culture by inciting hatred and peddling false dreams of "Sonar Bangla" (golden Bengal) which he called a "mirage" he said the Prime Minister and his party BJP was dividing Bengalis for

votes.
"Like in Assam, Tamil Nadu and elsewhere the BJP is trying to spread hatred amongst the people and divide them" in the name of caste and religion... the people of other states have learnt with experience that the BJP have only hatred and divisive politics to offer in the name of lofty dreams like Sonar Bangla that they are peddling now," Gandhi told a rally at Goalkpokhar in North Dinajpur district of North Bengal.

The so-called Sonar Bangla was a "mirage" which the BJP was selling in every state to hide

Criticising each and every step taken by the Modi Government he said "they promised you unearthing of black money through demonetization but could they do it ... they failed in that ... and ended up bringing hardship to com-

Attacking the Modi Government for "its insensitivity when thousands of people were walking back home hundreds and thousands of kms," the former Congress president said, "those thousands of people from your area know it well how they returned home during the lockdown ... instead of putting money to your pocket to lessen your hardship they were waiving tax burdens on the large corporate houses of Modiji\s choice saying they would create jobs ... but did that happen ... No."

During his first rally in Bengal in this election season, Gandhi took a dig at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and said his party would never align with the BJP and the RSS, unlike the TMC, which in the past had been an alliance partner of the saffron party-led

Hitting out at Mamata Banerjee he said that the Bengal Chief Minister's remote control was in the hands of Narendra Modi adding they were the two

Attacking Banerjee for being part of the BJP's alliance for many years he said "she was in the BJP's closet for many vears but did the Congress ever made any alliance with the BJP or the RSS ... did the Congress compromise with an ideology that murdered its political Guru (Mahatma Gandhi) ... we will prefer to die than to go with the BJP-RSS."

Trying to distinguish dif-ferentiate between Banerjee's fight against the BJP and the Congress' struggle against it he said "for Mamata Banerjee it is merely a political fight ... but for the Congress it is a battle of ideology on which it cannot

Reminding the BJP's slogan "Congress Mukt Bharat" (Congress-less India) he said, "the slogan was coined because they know that the Congress will never surrender before the ideology of RSS.'

He attacked the TMC for introducing the culture of cut money and extortion in Bengal he said "the people of Bengal gave an opportunity to TMC. But, they failed in every respect... This is the only state where you have to pay cut money to get jobs ... in Bengal there is no industry, no road, no infrastructure ... nothing ... now the people of Bengal have to go to other states for jobs."

BJP 'outsiders' raised | corona cases: Mamata

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

A pparently putting a new coating to her "outsider" weapon, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday said that the "BJP's outsiders" were responsible for the increase in the number of corona cases in Bengal.

Intensifying her tirade against the "BJP's outsiders" she said "in Bengal we had controlled corona ... the cases had been reduced" to negligible numbers but "as the election campaign it start-ed spreading because the BJP's out-

siders brought it from other States."
She said "I have been repeatedly talking against bringing people from outside states to Bengal for campaigning but they did not listen to me and brought them to our State ... these people would not come to Bengal when corona was at its peak ... it was only we who were fighting to contain the disease ... and now when we had controlled it they brought outsiders who brought the disease with them, infected the local people and fled."

Alleging that the State Government had been continuously asking for vaccines from the Centre she said "now they are coming to ask for votes ... but when we asked for vaccines they would not give it to us ... we have deposited the required money for the vaccines but they are still not

coming. With the daily cases rising by more than 10 percent --- the latest figure reaching to about 4,800 on Tuesday --- there has been a huge shortage of vaccine in most Bengal hospitals. According to State health department 3 lakh Covishield vaccines reached

another badge of 2 lakh Covaxin would reach the State by Wednesday

Referring to the Cooch Behar police firing that killed four people in Sitalkuchi constituency of the North Bengal district Baneriee on Wednesday said she would get the matter probed and ensure justice for the kin of the vic-

Banerjee visited Mathabhanga Hospital where the injured were being treated three days after the Election Commission lifted the 72-hour ban on political leaders visiting the district.

"I can assure you that whosoever is guilty will be brought to justice after the elections," Banerjee said adding her Government would support the victims family with all kind of support. Four persons Manirul, Samilul, Hamidul and Nur Alam were killed in the firing. Banerjee also met a distant relative of BJP supporter Ananda Burman who was shot dead on the same day by alleged TMC goons in the same constituency and assured them

"The Government will track every one responsible for the cold-blooded killing and ensure they are punished as per law," Banerjee said reminding how the wife of a victim was pregnant and that of another had a small child."

Four persons were killed as central forces opened fire at alleged hooligans who "attempted to snatch their rifles" at booth number 5/126 during polls on April 10. The clash broke out when the quick response team of the central forces were escorting a group of voters who had been stopped from voting by miscreants to the booth.

Keralites celebrate Vishu amid pandemic fears

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Despite the emergency situation prevailing in the State, Keralites celebrated Vishu (the Malayalam New Year Day), a day which marks the annual agricultural operations with gaiety though in a subdued manner.

Family members woke up early in the mrning to see the Kani(the first sight) made up of a picture of Lord Krishna resplendent with ornaments, grains, seeds, new cloth and a bunch of currency, which assures an year filled with prosperity and happiness.

The eldest member of the family gave away Vishu Kaineettam (a token gift) in the form of a coin and new cloth to members of the family. Nostaligia marked the occasion as 85 year old V B Radha, the patriarch of Perumbavoor's Vembanattu family gave away Kaineettam to her children, grand children and great grand children.

The cattle herds in agricultural family too were in for a treat in the morning itself as they were worshipped with lighted lamps and pictures of Lord Krishna. Farm workers toiling in the paddy fields assembled in the farm lands in the early hours itself to commence symbolic agricultural operations.

It is an age old tradition for the village astrologers to call on families to provide the annual forecast, popularly known as Vishu Phalam. Village astrologers are gone long back and people call on them in the morning hours to know what is in store for them in the coming year.

'Things will not be as bad as it was in 2021. The Covid-19 pandemic will definitely subside and normalcy would gradually return to the country. There are signs of negativity giving way to opti-



Parappanangadi Unnikrishna Panickar, Sanskrit and Vedic scholar about the coming days.

True to the prediction, it rained heavily in the State on Vishu Day and the chief minister, who was undergoing treatment for Covid-19 at the Kozhikode Medical College Hospital for the last three days returned to his palatial home at Pinarayi in Kannur. Speaker P Sreeramakrishnan, who was in the ICU since he was questioned by the Customs Department in connection with hawala transaction, was moved back to the hospital ward after it was found that he too had defeated the pandemic.

"Vishu is always the beginning of a new dawn. It is a harbinger of happiness and peace. That's why it is being celebrated in unison by all sections of Kerala society," said Prof P G Haridas, eminent historian

Bhangipara: Cold horror stalks villages in Sunderbans

old horror is a small expres-Usion to depict the prevailing tension among the locals in this back-of-beyond village bordering

Outsiders are clearly not welcome at Bhangipara. Such is the fear that not a single soul here would volunteer to talk.

After much cajoling Rani Mondal (name changed) decides to show some courage but on conditions of anonymity. "Babu you will go today ... but tomorrow after the elections if they win they will bomb our houses, attack our children ... kill our old people," she says.

Why would she not talk of the young men? "Beche thakle to bolbo (how can I refer to the young men? Are they alive?) ... they have been killed by the men of Shahjahan" (a local TMC tough) she alleges.

the incident took place she says, "our fault was that the BJP got a lead of 150 votes from this area (though the TMC won the seat) during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections... violence started only after that as their goons came and attacked our men just because they were doing BJP."

Her father Hari (name changed) says "they came like an Amphan (the cyclone is the latest symbol of horror in the locals collective mind), charged bombs ... we along with our women hid on the roof or beneath our beds ... there were gunshots all around. As the men ran towards the Bheris (fish ponds) they were chased... by the evening it was all over ... two bodies were fished out" subsequently.

The two victims were

Sukanto Mondal and Pradip Mondal. A third Devdas Mondal is missing still now. His father says "My son was raising a BJP flag at the shop which irked Even as she walks up to the them ... they were already w th

... in front of my house my son ran away for his life towards the Bheri ... they followed him ... there after we do not know what happened. They later brought two bodies but my son has not returned even today ... almost two years... look at my eyes ... can you find any tears... they have dried up ... he helplessly looks at heavens hurling all his complaints up there."

And then he shows his two grand children and a young dahguter-in-law. "There is no relief. At this old age I have to go out silently to work and manage some food for these little ones and the daughter-in-law. I cannot look at their eyes ... they have no hope ... no pleasure," he says relating the worst part of it all.

"And what is worse is the CID that is probing the case does nothing ... often we are told that the police is pressured by the TMC to harass us and even arrest us ... what have we done ... this was not like that in the were not so cruel." He would not reveal whether the family did CPI(M) earlier or not.

Padma Mondal the wife of a victim and now a BJP leader shows courage saying "we will not let the culprits go unpunished ... the people cannot speak up out of fear ... but tomorrow they will The alleged perpetrator of the

crime Shahjehan however would rubbish the allegations as "false and baseless ... they have their land slipping beneath their feet and now they are blaming the TMC." When told to explain his meteoric rise from rags to riches he says "we have been doing business for so many years." Cut to the nearby village

where the family of Abdul Kayum Mollah, have a different tale to tell. "It is the BJP men who attacked us and killed the man here ... he was chased and shot dead because he was a TMC," say the victim's family members asking in a hushed tone "Dada BJP

BJP really coming). When asked about the source of the family's earning they say "we do odd work like farming, fishing or sometimes construction labourers..."

When reminded that there is no material difference between the earthly condition of the two sides, both being poor Asfaq Sk a relative of the victim says "Dada jani to ... agey to erokom chilo na ... ekhon hoi (we know it ... earlier it was not like that ... today it is like that)."

When asked about their real problems both the sides have similar things to say: lack of income, lack of education and health facilities, lack of job and corruption. "I went for Asha Karmi ... they asked for Rs one lakh" says Ámeena Khatoon adding the job still eludes her as she could not pay the amount.

And what will they do on the polling day April 17. "God knows babu ... will we be allowed to vote?" That is another common

₹50cr-worth drugs seized in narco-terror module bust in J&K's Tangdhar sector

PNS ■ JAMMU

Proops guarding the line of control in ▲ North Kashmir's Tangdhar sector late Tuesday night foiled a major smuggling bid by recovering a drugs consignment worth ₹50 crores. According to defence sources, troops initially foiled an infiltration bid in the forward area and also recovered a 10 kg of narco consignment worth 50 crores (approximately). According to a Srinagar based Defence

Spokesman Lt Col Emron Musavi, "late Tuesday night smugglers were spotted carrying the narcotics along the Line of Control. Indian Army & BSF troops detected a suspicious movement and challenged the smugglers probably accompanied by Pak based terrorists".

He said, "the contact was near the LoC fence about 500m from the LoC. A brief exchange of fire took place in which one JCO of Indian Army sustained minor

to recovery of the narcotics haul. The infiltrators managed to escape", he added. Defence Spokesman said, "this is the

second consecutive busting of 'Pak Sponsored Narco Terror Model' in the past one week in the valley." Incidentally, he said, a 10 KG heroin consignment was recovered from the

same general area a week ago in a joint operation. However, he said, this time smugglers were spotted carrying the narcotics along the LoC. Narco and terrorist infiltration are

known to be carried out through the Tangdhar bowl. The police are carrying out investigations to identify and arrest the network involved in the smuggling and infiltration attempt.

The Defence spokesman said, "security forces, police and intelligence agencies continue to carry out synergised actions to counter any effort to carry out infiltration or smuggling of weapons and contraband

Goa to extend 'Tika Utsav' by 10-12 days: CM

Panaji: The Goa government will extend the Covid-19 vaccination drive, 'Tika Utsav', by 10-12 days, said Chief Minister Pramod Sawant on Wednesday, urging people above the age of 45 years to take advantage of the vaccination outreach pro-

"'Tika Utsav' will continue for 10-12 days so that those who are eligible get themselves vaccinated. Lockdown is not the solution for Covid-19 but vaccination, maintaining social distancing, wearing face masks is. We should avoid public meetings and unnecessary gatherings," added Sawant while speaking at an event organised by the Directorate of Fire and Emergency Services.

'Get tested immediately if you have COVID-19 signs and symptoms and maintain home isolation. If we need to contain the spread of the infection, then people will have to cooperate. The government will not lag behind when it comes to hospitalisation or providing Covid-19 care kits. Early treatment is the

key," said the Goa Chief Minister. The 'Tika Utsav' programme was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a four-day mass vaccination campaign for inoculation of people above the age of 45 years from April 11 to

Sawant said that while the neighbouring state of Maharashtra had gone into lockdown, a similar fate should not "befall" Goa, urging people to maintain social distancing and adhere to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Gujarat CM to meet religious | Andhra logs 4K more Covid cases, leaders on Covid situation

Gandhinagar: The Gujarat Chief Minister, Vijay Rupani on Wednesday evening, will hold a virtual meeting with various religious leaders of the state on the prevailing situa-

tion of Corona infection in the state. The CM will hold discussions with them and request cooperation from every

community in the fight against the virus. Vijay Kupani will have a virtual meeting with many religious leaders of the state at 4

p.m. in the evening on Wednesday. Many dignitaries from various religious communities like Ratnasundarji Maharaj

Migrant workers from Bihar relieved

after return but worried about work

Saheb, Namramuni Maharaj Saheb, Vraj RajKumar, Dwarkesh Lalji, Brahmavihari Swami, Sant swami of Vadtal Temple, Tyagvallabh swami, Shernath Bapu, Avichaldasji Maharaj, Dilipdasji Maharaj, Shambhu Prasad Tundiya, Maulana Lukman Tarapuri and Right Reverend Silvance Christian will participate in the

The CM will have discussions with them regarding the current Covid situation in the state, and their role in the fight against the pandemic.

Have recover raising the raising the pandemic.

active cases cross 28,000 mark

Wednesday reported 4,157 new Covid-19 cases, taking the tally to over 9.37 lakh, while active cases reached 28,383.

The state, which was logging over 2,000 cases for some days, has now the tally double to over 4,000 cases. There were also 18 more deaths, in the past 24 hours, pushing the toll to 7,339.

Meanwhile, 1,606 more persons have recovered in the last 24 hours. raising the number of recoveries

the highest number of cases at 617, followed by Srikakulam (522), Chittoor (517), Visakhapatnam (417), Kurnool (386), Anantapur (297), Nellore (276), Prakasam (230), Vizianagaram (154), Krishna (135), Kadapa (112) and West Godavari (60). East Godavari's tally has crossed 1.27 lakh, the highest among all the districts, while the state's positivity rate rose to 6.03 per the national average of 5.32 per

IANS

Renaming Harijans as Dalits sabotaged Gandhi's dream: Acharya Kunjhol

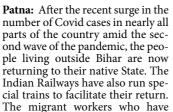
KOCHI: On the occasion of the 130th birth anniversary of Dr BR Ambedkar, the chief Constitution, a vedic scholar of repute has called for the abolition of the word Dalit once and for ever and to bring back the name Harijan used to denote the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

"Harijan is the most sanguine word which accorded respect, sanctity and beauty to the depressed and oppressed communities. The word was introduced by Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation. He even named the world famous magazine he launched as Harijan. But certain vested interests sabotaged Gandhi's dream and renamed the communities as Dalit, a term which has no Indianness in it," said Acharya M K Kunjhol, the chief patron of Kerala State Harijan Samajam, a 64 year old organisation working for the upliftment of



Kunjhol, Kerala's living Mahatma, who has been honoured with Padma Sri by the President of India for the selfless and dedicated work he is doing among the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes for the last 70 years, attributed to a deep rooted conspiracy by anti-national elements in getting the name Harijan replaced with Dalit.

When Mahatma Gandho took up the agitation to get the practice of untouchability ameliorated and eradicate caste discrimination, he asked the people to propose a common nomenclature for the scheduled castes and tribes who were being treated as untouchables.



The migrant workers who have returned to Bihar have now begun to worry about finding work here. Some are thinking about doing farming while many people are thinking about engaging in contractual labour.

Hundreds of people from Mokama, adjoining Bihar's state capital Patna, earned their livelihood working in other states. Many such people have returned to their native villages. Anand Kumar, a resident of Ghoswari village, says that dozens of people from his village had gone to other states to earn money and have now returned home or are preparing to return to their native place fearing a lockdown. He said he had also come back

to his native place when the lock-

down was imposed last year in view

of the pandemic. He was left with-

out work after the lockdown was lifted following which he again returned to Bihar. Now once again due to the lockdown people are forced to return to their native Subedar Rai, a resident of a vil-

lage near Ghoswari, used to work as a security guard in Mumbai. His whole family was infected with coronavirus and his wife died of the infection. Following this, he left Mumbai and returned to his native village. He said nobody cares in big cities. "I have returned to my native village facing a lot of trouble. Now come what may, I will not leave Bihar. I will work in the fields," he added. Ram Surat, a labourer who

works in a Pune factory, has also returned to Bihar. He had returned home last year when the situation due to the pandemic had worsened. When the situation improved, the factory owner called him back to work, but now everybody has returned to their homes. He has a family in Bihar. "I will stay in Bihar for a few days and when the situation improves, then I will return to work." He is relieved that he has

returned to his native state. However, asked how will he get employment here, he says that he could survive for some days but if the situation due to the pandemic persists for a long time, then it

would become difficult. Ramnandan, who lives in Chanka village of Purnia district, does not want to leave Bihar now. He said he returned home last year and is now doing farming. What is the use in moving out of Bihar. Advising other people, he says that one should search for work in Bihar. He said the state government is also working towards giving work to

people. People from Bihar travel in search of work to most parts of the country. Due to the surge in Covid-19 cases, factories and businesses are being shut down in many states, due to which people are returning to their native states. However, the number of infected cases is also rapidly increasing in Bihar. The people who have returned to their states are relieved that at least they have returned to their villages.

Maha logs 58,952 new corona cases, 278 deaths

TN RAGHUNATHA MUMBAI

Notwithstanding a marginal drop in the number of Covid-19 cases, the pandemic situation continued to be grim in Maharashtra on Wednesday, as the state recorded 58,952 fresh cases and 278

On a day when the Maharashtra government began to enforce stringent restrictions, including a ban on the movement of people in public places without a valid reason, prohibitory orders under section 144 of CR.PC and night curfew for 15 days, the number of infections dropped from Tuesday's tally of 60,212 to 58,952, while deaths came down from 281 to 278 in various parts of the state.

With 58952 fresh cases, the total infections climbed from 35,19,208 to 35,78,160. Similarly, with 258 new deaths, the total Covid-19 toll rose from 58,526 to 58,804.

As 39,624 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year went up to 29,05,721. The recovery rate in the state for the first time in several days

dropped from 81.44 per cent to 81.21

The number of "active cases" total cases in the state rose from 5,93,042 to 6,12,070. The fatality rate in the state dropped from 1.66 per cent to 1.64 per

With 54 fresh deaths, the Covid-19 toll in Mumbai rose from 12,023 to 12066, while the infected cases went up by 9931 to trigger a jump in the infections from 5,35,264 to 5,45,195.

While Pune accounted for a maximum 1,12,213 "active cases" in the state, Mumbai stood second with 86,635 active cases, followed by Thane (84,098), Nagpur (65,368), Nashik (44,880), Aurangabad (14,680), Ahmednagar (17,937), Nanded (13,917), Bhandara (12993), Jalgaon (12126), Latur (13622) Buldhana (4849), Parbhani (8847), Beed (8517), Nandurbar (7158), Chandrapur (7898) and Gondia (6536).

laboratories, 35,78,160 have tested positive (15.86 per cent) for COVID-19 until Wednesday.

Of the 2,28,02,200 samples sent to

Currently, 34, 55,206 people are in home quarantine while 28,494 people are in institutional quarantine.

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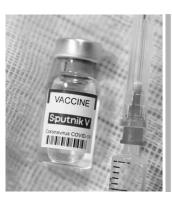
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- PAPER WITH PASSION-

Going all out

The Govt's decision to procure COVID jabs from abroad should be welcomed for a variety of reasons

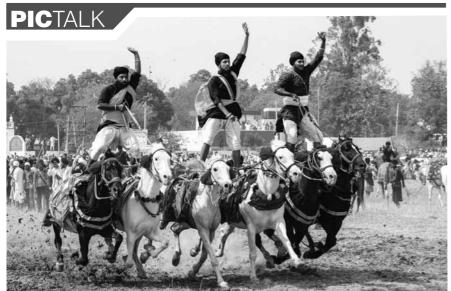
The Indian Government's "vaccine *maîtri*" may have earned it laurels among the nations that received the approximately 6.45 crore COVID shots, but it has left it clutching at straws and getting the flak in its own backvard. With the Coronavirus cases rising exponentially across India and with more deaths being recorded due to its new strains, the Centre is facing criticism that in its enthusiasm to earn global brownie points it put its own citizens at risk by distributing the shots to other nations instead of ensuring that all its citizens were inoculated first. As the second wave of infections tears across the country, there are calls for opening up the inoculation process for everyone as the new strain is not sparing children and the youth this time around.



Hence, faced with a shortage of the COVID jabs the Centre first gave the nod for the use of Russiamade Sputnik Vaccine for emergency use and moves are now afoot to enlarge the COVID-19 vaccine basket by giving approval to the shots manufactured in the US, the UK and Japan. The National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for COVID-19 (NEGVAC) has recommended that shots being manufactured abroad as well as those which have already received approval for "restricted use by the USFDA, EMA, UK MHRA, PMDA Japan may be granted emergency use approval in India". It is understood that the "vaccines, which

are listed in the World Health Organisation's emergency use listing, may also be granted emergency use approval in India".

The decision has come at the right time as it would encourage imports of bulk drug material and help in optimal utilisation of domestic fill-and-finish capacity which will, in turn, provide a fillip to our vaccine manufacturing capacity and total jab availability for domestic use. The Centre, trying its best to calm the citizens, has assured them that there is no vaccine shortage and over 1.67 crore doses are still available. While there is some strength in the argument that the Government should have catered to its citizens first, the fact remains that the healthcare authorities and the public, too, is to a certain extent responsible for the state we are in today. First of all, given the fact that vaccines are direly needed at this time, how do we explain the criminal average wastage of 6.5 per cent in India? Plus, if people had listened to the Government, got inoculated in massive numbers and observed the Corona protocols diligently, there would not have been such a surge in cases. When the number of infections dipped after the first wave, had we shunned vaccine hesitancy, things would have moved with assembly-line precision and a large part of the population would have had the shots by now. However, it's not too late and the Centre is doing its bit to provide succour to its citizens. We need to calm down, behave like responsible citizens and help the Government in its endeavour in any way we can. After all, this is a situation that none of us had ever faced before.



Nihangs show their horse-riding skills on the last day of Baisakhi Mela in Bathinda district

Double whammy

Our insouciance is responsible for the alarming

B oth the pandemic and the pollution have made life miserable for the residents of Delhi. It's a double whammy this year — unlike last year when Delhi. It's a found to be some relief during the Communication. of Delhi. It's a double whammy this year — unlike last year when Delhiites had some relief during the Coronavirus-induced lockdown as the level of pollutants fell drastically, thanks to the restriction on vehicular movement and the ban on indus-



trial activity. However, this relief was short-lived since the Capital's air quality started to deteriorate with the lifting of curbs. As the COVID-19 cases surge towards another peak, Delhi is witnessing the worst air quality since 2018. As the country is fighting the pandemic with indigenous vaccines (now with the imported ones, too), masks, social distancing and the "Test-Track-Treat" methodology, it must also think of cutting down on pollution. We must remember that one's immunity plays a vital role in fighting the virus and pollution certainly doesn't help it. Hence, lowering the pollution level will only aid our fight against the contagion. The Particulate Matter (PM) is the biggest contributor to Delhi's pollution and

the main factors behind the increase in its concentration include vehicular emissions, biomass and garbage burning and industrial smoke effluents.

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a meeting with the Chief Ministers stressed that there is no need for another lockdown as the country now has enough infrastructure to control the infection. But unfortunately the Governments have failed to control the pollution in Delhi — which is ranked the world's most polluted Capital and 10th most polluted city across the globe in the World Air Quality Report 2020 by a Swiss air technology company, IQAir — and the only solution in sight to control the PM levels in the Capital is another lockdown. But it's not right to blame only the Governments as the citizens also are no less responsible for this pathetic situation. Actions like car pooling, switching off the ignition at stop signals, using public transport, use of electric vehicles, and so on, are far from being our habit. Similarly, simple things like wearing masks properly, maintaining social distance, sanitising hands regularly and strictly adhering to the COVID-appropriate behaviour are not followed, which helps the infection spread. Until we mend our ways, we are doomed to lose both battles, against the pandemic and the pollution.

Elections in the time of COVID



With half the phases in the Bengal polls remaining, the virus management measures appear to be missing on the ground

he Congress candidate from the Srivilliputhur Assembly constituency, 63-year-old PSW Madhava Rao, passed away of COVID-19 complications five days after the Tamil Nadu election concluded on April 6. If he wins the election posthumously, the constituency will head for a by-election. Tamil Nadu is one of the 16 States in India experiencing a significant surge in fresh Coronavirus infections. However, the pictures of bulging election rallies/road shows there capture only people's indifference towards the virus. The wearing of masks seems to be a luxury rather than a compulsory practice.

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has laid down strict COVID-19 protocols for the elections in five States. It forms a part of the February 26 announcement of the poll schedule. The guidelines remain virtually unchanged since the Bihar Legislative Assembly election in October-November 2020. However, they seem to be honoured more in the breach than in observance, at least with regard to campaigning.

The instruction is that the District Election Officer (DEO, who is mostly the District Magistrate) should identify dedicated grounds for public gatherings with clearly marked entry and exit points, put markers to ensure social distancing norms by the attendees, and the nodal district health officer should ensure that the COVID-related guidelines are adhered to by everyone in the district. The DEÓ and the District Superintendent of Police should ensure that the number of attendees does not exceed the limit prescribed by the State Disaster Management Authority for public gatherings. However, the swelling crowds at the rallies/road shows seem to throw these protocols out of the

While elections in Tamil Nadu, Keraia, Puducherry and Assam were over by April 6, those in the State of West Bengal will continue till April 29. There, that those not wearing masks

only four of the eight phases have been completed until now. The elections are already scarred by violence, and the media is fully fixated on it. By contrast, the large-scale flouting of the pandemic norms has not engaged the media's attention sufficiently.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi repeatedly exhorts people to wear masks and maintain physical distancing norms in public. He is emphatic that nobody should be lax about the COVID-19 protocols. These are indeed meant for the people's own safety, and tens of millions of ordinary Indians like me follow his advice in letter and spirit. However, does he follow his own advice at the mammoth rallies that he has been addressing frequently in West Bengal? The crowd strength at his rallies is so oppressive that there is hardly any place to stand. There was palpable fear of a stampede at his rally in Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground on March 7.

As the camera zooms in on different segments in the crowds at the Prime Minister's numerous railies, it is easy to spot that masks are a rarity. Does Modi demand



AHEAD OF THE FOURTH GENERAL **ELECTIONS IN** 1967, THE CHIEF MINISTERS OF TAMIL NADU AND WEST BENGAL SHOWED THE WAY FOR DEVELOPING A CODE OF CONDUCT THROUGH ALL-PARTY MEETINGS. THE ELECTION **COMMISSION OF** INDIA OFFICIALLY ADOPTED IT

or flouting the social distancing norms should leave immediately? Far from it, the Prime Minister seems to be oblivious of the subject as he vigorously launches a broadside on Mamata Banerjee's "misrule". The official candidates of his party — who otherwise pretend to follow Modi religiously — throw their masks (read caution, please) to the wind while going to file their nomination papers or campaigning.

None of the political parties seem to behave responsibly against the threat of COVID-19. Their delinquency is punishable under Sections 51 to 60 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, besides legal action under Section 188 of the Indian Penal Code as specified in Order No 40-3/2020-DMI (A) of November 25, 2020, by the Ministry of Home Affairs. However, there are hardly any publicised incidents of punishment on this account until now.

With respect to the Coronavirus, no political party can evade moral responsibility. They should have by themselves appointed nodal officebearers for ensuring COVIDappropriate arrangements. If expressed are personal.)

elected to govern, they themselves will have to deal with the pandemic upsurge. It is shameful that their behaviour should be COVID-inappropriate in public while seeking votes. The battle against the virus cannot be wholly dependent on vaccinations. Experience has shown that even those vaccinated can contract COVID-19.

The second wave of the pandemic has gripped India even as half the phases in the West Bengal election remain. It devolves upon all political parties to come together and take recognisable measures so that the poll campaign does not aggravate the situation. It might involve curtailing big rallies/road shows featuring star campaigners. One is reminded how ahead of the Fourth General Elections in 1967, the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and West Bengal showed the way for developing a Code of Conduct through all-party meetings. The ECI officially adopted it in 1968. Such all-party meetings on the COVID-19 situation are the need of the hour.

(The writer is an autho and independent researcher based in New Delhi. The views

WE ARE NOT PREPARED AT ALL

Sir — This refers to the editorial 'Double mutant strikes' (April 14). Your article is right on the money when it says that this variant multiplies quickly. You rightly raised the point about the lack of data and studies that is peer-reviewed — it does not give the guarantee that these vaccines would work. One does need to be an Einstein to know that if things keep spiralling downwards, the day is not far when we surge past the US in becoming the worst-hit country.

We are importing vaccines but the recent halt in the rollout of Johnson & Johnson's vaccine in the US is also concerning as blood clots have been reported in patients who took this jab. It is bizarre that a country producing top doctors and scientists cannot figure out how this virus operates. The health briefings are an elephant dart to the public's face as all it does is present a rosy picture. It seems that our pandemic response is absolutely misguided and an absolute disgrace.

Sadly, our people could not refrain from going to events like the Kumbh Mela. Even the politicians are busy holding rallies as their priority is to win elections rather than to control the virus. All this has led to pandemic fatigue as people have been following the rules for long, for something that isn't even their fault. It's too late in the day to wish for this pandemic to have never afflicted humankind. The only thing to do now is to just mask up and stay home!

Sean Colin Young | New Delhi

EXERCISE CAUTION WHILE CAMPAIGNING Sir - It doesn't behove Prime Minister Narendra Modi to speak insultingly of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and repeatedly call her "Didi o Didi". Such words belittle the dignity of a women and the Election Commission must take note of it. Mamata was right in saying that the way the PM is cracking jokes on her, it sounds like a young man making a pass at a local woman. This is certainly below standard. "I know many things about you, Modi and Shah. But I have the dignity not to stoop so low," she said. She targeted Modi, saying that

Punish vaccine hoarders



mid the current surge in the number of Coronavirus cases, several States have reported the shortage of anti-viral drug Remdesivir. It is surprising that Gujarat BJP chief CR Patil has announced that 5,000 doses of Remdesivir would be made available free of cost by the party in Surat. But he didn't explain how he managed to get the stock despite the Government mandating that not more than six doses of medicine will be sold without a doctor's prescription.

The Government must respond and explain that when people are unable to get the

only someone who did not give due recognition to the women in his life can crack such jokes. However, Mamata also has crossed her limits several times in past.

Our political leaders must exercise caution while speaking in public. The common people follow the politicians blindly and such statements set a wrong precedent in politics. There are politicians like Uttar Pradesh's former Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav and Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan who have made insulting remarks against women. The politicos should maintain dignity and decorum in public life.

G David Milton | Tamil Nadu

STOP THE HATE SPEECHES Sir — The overzealous campaign of the BJP's Suvendu Adhikari, with the choicest of abuses for our Islamic brethren, follows the culture of his new political masters. Sadly, such

injection despite standing in queues for hours, how did 5,000 injections reach Patil? Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani's innocent response was that he is unaware of Patil's claim. "I don't know. Ask Patil," said Rupani. This response is careless and is not expected from a CM. It is a blatant case of corruption and a CBI inquiry must be initiated to find out how he managed to stockpile the Remdesivir injection. Worse still, this is the situation despite the Gujarat

High Court pulling up the State Government

over the worsening Coronavirus situation. The COVID-19 patients are experiencing unimaginable difficulties due to the shortage of beds, oxygen and medicine supply and lack of proper testing and tracing. Though Prime Minister Narendra Modi claims that India has "walked the talk" on helping the world counter the pandemic despite its "limited resources", much is needed to be done to effectively deal with the rising COVID cases at home. Nailing the corrupt politicians who stockpile or hoard the vaccine is one such step.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

leaders vouch for the constitutional ethos and cry "India first" at every possible opportunity! Despite the rampant abuse of religion and attempts to create a rift among communities, these leaders surprisingly are not prosecuted. Hate speeches have become

the order of the day in elections. These things work in elections since the people are still not educated or wellinformed enough and fall into the trap of the political leaders. We will never have good and accountable governance unless and until we vote for those who are secular in the real sense and do not create rift among people. Else, we cannot continue to blame the politicians for our plight as we only vote them to power and give them the opportunity to

Kajal Chatterjee | Kolkata

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

continue for 10-12 days. Lockdown is not the solution for COVID-19 but vaccination, social



Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant

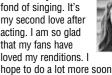
It is the lockdown

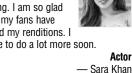


that has been overwhelmingly important in bringing down infections and deaths. It has not been achieved by the vaccination programme.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnsor

I have always been







Indian hockey captain Manpreet Singh

The UP Government is playing not with statistics, but with the lives of people. The



Congress leader Privanka Gandhi-Vadra

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LEARN MORE ABOUT THE SOUTH

If we want real integration. North Indians must study the history and literature of South India, too, right from school



MARKANDEY KATJU

Il Indians, including those from the South, have read about the Agreat Mauryan Empire, the Gupta Empire, and so on in their school hisgreat Mauryan Empire, the Gupta Empire, the Empire of tory books. But, how many North Indians have heard of Krishnadeva Raya of the Vijayanagara Empire (whose statue along with his two queens, still stands in the Tirupati temple), or of the great Chola and Pandya kings? Regrettably, very few North Indians would be aware of these great kings from the South. Most Indians have read the 'Ramayan' and the 'Mahabharata', which are epics about North Indian kings, and most Indians have read the works of Surdas. Tulsidas. Kabir. and the stories of Munshi Premchand. But how many North Indians have read the great Tamil epics 'Silappathikaram', 'Manimekalai', or the great Tamil treatise 'Tirukkural' by Tiruvalluvar, about whom the great Tamil poet Subramania Bharati wrote: "Tamil Nadu is known throughout the world because of Tirukkural." How many have heard the 'Tiruppavai' by the poet saint Andal, which is sung in the month of January all over Tamil Nadu, or the great poetry of Subramania Bharati who wrote powerful verses for women's emancipation around 1910 much before anyone dared to do so in the country? Very few.



North Indians know of Hindustani music but how many know of Carnatic music, and its trinity of Tyagaraj, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Shyama Shastri? Hardly any. How many North Indians have heard of the great Keralite social reformer Narayan Guru, who belonged to the low-caste Ezhava community and fearlessly criticised and campaigned against the inhuman caste system? Practically none. For long, North Indians have regarded South India as a dark land populated by uncivilised people and are blissfully unaware of the South's great achievements in various fields. Indeed in the 'Ramayan', Kishkindha, which is believed to be in the present State of Karnataka, was regarded to be a land populated by monkeys from whom Lord Rama raised a 'vaanar sena (monkey army)' to invade Sri Lanka. Regrettably, even today, many North Indians look down on South Indians due to their ignorance of the culture and achievements of the South. For instance, South Indian temples are massive and unbelievably beautiful. They reveal the high level of knowledge of architecture and geometry of the ancient and medieval South Indians. For example, the Brihadishvara temple of Tanjore is simply astounding and one wonders how the builders could use such huge stones to create it. In fact, it reminds one of the Egyptian pyramids. The gigantic rock relief 'Descent of the Ganges' in the ancient port city of Mahabalipuram, capital of the Pallav Empire, is truly amazing

The large number of Roman coins found in South India show the extensive trade between it and ancient Rome from the time of Emperor Augustus (who reigned from 27 BC to 14 AD). This indicates how highly developed the economy in ancient and medieval South India was as they, unlike North Indians, were seafaring people, with extensive commercial contacts in Southeast Asia. The Chola king Rajendra Chola is believed to have executed military campaigns in Southeast Asia (Sri Lanka, Sumatra, and so on), which could only have been possible with the aid of a powerful navy. In llango's epic 'Silappathikaram' one comes across these lines: "May the Pandya king prosper, who ruled over the South, after conquering the Ganga and the Himalayas in the north." At first I thought this was only poetic exaggeration, however, later I read of credible accounts of a South Indian king (perhaps Rajendra Chola) leading a Napoleonic invasion of north India up to the Ganga and even beyond (apart from invading Sri Lanka, the Malaya peninsula, southern Thailand and so on.) If we want real integration of India, North Indians must study the history, culture and literature of South India, too, right from school and give the South Indians the respect they deserve.

(The writer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India. The

Irreconcilable differences?



While India insists on de-escalation in Eastern Ladakh, the Chinese prefer the status quo. As it appears, both sides are unwilling to relent

→ the 11th round of India-China military talks to defuse tension in Eastern Ladakh, that was held after a gap of nearly two months, has again ended without any major breakthrough. The marathon talks lasted 13 hours as has been the trend in the past, but the Chinese side this time was rigid and uncompromising. Ever since the successful disengagement of troops from the lake area and the Kailash Range in February this year, a stalemate exists as far as further disengagement is concerned from the areas of Hot Springs, Gogra, Demchok and over stopping of Indian patrols in

Immediately after the disengagement was completed, the 10th round of talks was held between the military commanders of the two nations. But it failed to arrive at any consensus as far as further disengagement from the remaining areas was concerned. However, the talks were dubbed as "constructive" and both sides hoped for a fruitful outcome. A joint statement issued by the two countries after the talks positively appraised the disengagement from the lake area, terming it a significant step that would provide a good basis for resolution of other remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Western

Though the much-awaited 11th round has once again ended in a stalemate, there are two noticeable differences. Unlike in the past, no joint statement has been issued by the two nations. In another first, the Chinese side has responded with a statement from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) with the Press statement issued by the spokesperson of its Western Theatre Command instead of its Defence Ministry. The statement issued by the PLA was full of rhetoric and laced with diplomatic niceties, indicating that it may have been drafted at the Ministry level but was issued by the PLA. This indicates some sort of unhappiness or disagreement which may need intervention at the highest level.

The PLA's statement said, "We hope India can treasure the current positive situation of de-escalation in the China-India border regions, abide by related agreements reached by the two countries and the two militaries in previous meetings, meet China halfway and safeguard peace and stability in the border regions together"; once again reiterating the "half-way" offer rejected outrightly by India in the past. What's the point of talking about de-escalation when the Chinese have not even completed the promised disengagement?

A couple of weeks earlier, General Naravane, the Indian Chief of the Army Staff, had observed that the threat in Eastern Ladakh has "not gone away altogether" since the PLA was still maintaining its considerable troop strength in the "rear areas" as before. "De-escalation will take place only when these elements go back to their garrisons," eludes both sides.

While the Indian side insisted on complete disengagement from Hot Springs, Gogra, Kongka La and Demchok, including the lingering issue of Depsang, the Chinese did not concede to troop pullback from these friction sites as earlier agreed to, leave alone discussing Depsang. The disengagement from the Depsang plains is believed to be the bone of contention since it is not directly relat-



OFF ANY THREAT IN THE AREA, INDIA HAS ALSO BUILT UP A STRONG FORCE THERE, INCLUDING ARMOURED VEHICLES. THE LOGISTICS OF SUSTENANCE OF SUCH A LARGE FORCE AND KEEPING THE ARMOURED FLEET FUNCTIONAL IN SUCH EXTREME **COLD WEATHER** CONDITIONS IS A HERCULEAN TASK



ed to last year's aggression. Hectic diplomatic activity had preceded the 11th round of talks for "maintaining peace and tranquillity and providing conditions for the progress of bilateral relations." The Indian Foreign Minister, in a telephonic conversation with his Chinese counterpart, had insisted on "early resolution of remaining issues along the LAC and disengagement at all friction points.

In a virtual meeting of the Working Mechanism of Consultation and Coordination on India China Border Affairs (WMCC), held in the last week of March, it was decided to hold the 11th round of talks between the Corps Commanders as early as possible in order "to further ease the situation on the ground and jointly safeguard the hard-won peace and stability in the border areas."

All eyes were thus set on the 11th round of negotiations, hoping not only for disengagement from the remaining areas but also for the resolution of the Depsang imbroglio. So, the big question is, why are the Chinese so sensitive about this area and unwilling to concede? The Depsang plains are sandwiched between the Aksai Chin and Siachen glacier. Located at the height of 16,000-17,000 feet above sea level, the area provides good mobility to the armoured vehicles. The Karakoram Pass and the Sasser Law Pass, both strategically important to India and located within its territory, are on its flanks.

Much of these plains had been moved beyond that till the perceived

under Chinese control since the mid-1950s. Daulat Beg Oldie (DBO) is also located adjacent to the plains. In 1962, the Chinese occupied much of the Depsang plains west of the DBO, with India left with a small bulge. The new road built by us to connect the DBO with the Shyok area and beyond is under the observation of the Chinese and remains vulnerable to its artillery fire. The area is strategically important because China and Pakistan can jointly threaten India with a pincer movement in a strategic collusion and cut off the vital area from the rest of Ladakh. Conversely, India can threaten Aksai Chin and the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), though a build-up for any large-scale offensive would pose serious challenges.

Apart from the varying perception of the LAC, another peculiar factor in the area is the Limit of Patrol (LOP). India and China differ on the alignment of the LOP as well. The Chinese perception of the LOP is almost 20 km beyond our perception inside our territory. The tensions in this area are not recent. The Chinese had intruded in the area in 2013 and again in 2015 during the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping and then during the 2017 Doklam crisis.

The crux of the problem lies in both sides denying each other access to the Patrolling Points (PPs) located on the LOP. Earlier Indian troops had been patrolling up to PP 11, 12, 12A and 13 and had not

LAC. But lately, the PLA has been preventing Indian troops from even patrolling till these PPs and the phenomenon has become more pronounced after the Doklam stand-off. Unlike the Chinese incursions in the Fingers Area (between Finger foureight), the Chinese did not physi-

cally move into the area. The Indian patrols can move in vehicles only up to an area called "Bottleneck" beyond which their movement is on foot. A kilometre or so beyond the bottleneck is "Y-Junction" where the route bifurcates, with one fork leading to PP10 to 12 and the other fork leading to PP13. When Indian patrols approach Y-Junction, the PLA troops come in vehicles from a nearby post and stop them from going further up to the LOP. In a *quid pro quo*, the Indian troops prevent the PLA's men from going ahead of the "Bottleneck" area to their perceived LOP.

To ward off any threat in the area, India has also built up a strong force there, including armoured vehicles. The logistics of sustenance of such a large force and keeping the armoured fleet functional in such extreme cold weather conditions is a Herculean task. vv niie india insists on de-escaiation in this area simultaneously with the others, the Chinese prefer the status quo. As it appears, both sides are unwilling to relent. Indian troops are still in possession of a feature in the lake area that can prove as a "trump card" for hard bargaining with the Chinese to secure our interests in the Depsang plains.

IN THE ELECTION, THE CONSCIOUS PEOPLE OF BENGAL HIT SO MANY FOURS AND SIXES THAT THE SEATS OF THE BJP HAVE BECOME CENTURIES.

—PRIME MINISTER **NARENDRA MODI**

The writer is a political

commentator, security

The views expressed

are personal.





I CAN SAY THAT AFTER THE ELECTIONS ARE OVER, THE BJP WILL NOT EVEN GET 70 OUT OF THE TOTAL 294 SEATS. —WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE

Time to bridge the healthcare gap and tap indigenous potential

There has to be support from the Government for medical Research and Development activities towards advanced health solutions

¬he COVID-19 pandemic has brought to light the disparity among the haves and have-nots in access to healthcare in the country. However, everyone should have working and living conditions that are conducive to good health. The collaboration of various stakeholders in the health sector, who must work as a team as well as individually, is essential to achieve a fairer and healthier world in which all members of society have access to quality healthcare services irrespective of

views expressed are personal.)

their socio-economic status. The first step towards achieving universal access to affordable health services is to have uniform, unbiased and economical healthcare facilities available for all. This will help in early detection and treatment of various diseases and infections. Preventive healthcare measures are of



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Lifeline Hospital. The

views expressed are personal.

utmost importance in ensuring the overall health of a com-

While we have a plethora of health schemes in India like 'Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY)' to cater to the health of our citizens, it's the execution part of such schemes that we lack in. Efforts are required to ensure that people are enrolled, databases are updated regularly and citizens avail the benefits of the scheme.

The Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) model can help in achieving the goal of accessible healthcare and realising the targets in the field. Private and Government entities need to collaborate and work in consonance, supplementing each other's effort. They have to come up with specific strategies for various the poverty line.

It is imperative to monitor health inequities and help provide better access to affordable and quality healthcare. Many people in our country struggle to avail primary healthcare services. It is important that the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in every State cater to the healthcare needs of migrant workers who are from varied backgrounds.

Fostering and nurturing indigenous technology is extremely important in building affordable healthcare infrastructure in India. There has to be support from the Government for medical Research and Development (R&D) activities towards advanced health solutions.

As far as possible, bureaucratic hurdles must be removed so that innovators and scientists are able to avail sections, such as those below the benefits of various policy industry-wide push to make wide gap in the supply and



initiatives. There has to be some provision for financial support and tax benefits so as to encourage these R&D entities. For instance, if a patient needs a heart valve replace-ment, Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) is an alternative to conventional heart surgery but the longlasting results of it are still in

question. It seems that there is an

these procedures popular, without really thinking about the long-term results. Currently, these valves are highly expensive in India (approximately ₹22.5 lakh) owing to which a majority of the people cannot afford it. Even the cost of conventional valve replacement (approximately ₹3 lakh) is also out of reach for many. The solution is indigenisation. The Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) using Nitinol stents developed by the National Aeronautical Lab (NAL) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is promising in this respect. Unfortunately, there has been no support from any Central Government

We all know that several organs are received only from human donors and there is a

demand. Today, science has reached a stage where these organs could be manufactured using one's own cells through the 3D printing technology or by using a biological scaffold — like a shark fin on which it could be grown. Shark skin is another potential tissue substrate to create biological tissue in view of its inherent tensile strength and durability. The Governments, both Central and States, as well as financial institutions mainly banks, should support these initiatives.

Unfortunately, due to ignorance on the part of regulatory bodies and other law enforcing agencies, even the licence for producing or manufacturing these has been poorly formulated and prioritised. Another important area is the realm of stem cell research with its tremendous regenerative potential, but we face too many hurdles in manufacturing and commercial production. Further, it's critical to cre-

ate awareness about various health issues in regional languages that people understand. Plus, there is a pressing need to emphasise upon the importance of nutrition and immunity development in maintaining individual health.

Vaccination can help in keeping vaccine-preventable diseases away but there are new viruses and strains that are being discovered every day. Recently, we have witnessed how the second wave of the COVID-19 virus has taken the country by storm. Therefore, it is of utmost importance that our population has a fairly strong immune system, along with affordable healthcare and indigenous R&D in medical

Iran Prez calls 60% enrichment an answer to 'evilness'

Dubai: Iran's President on Wednesday called his country's decision to dramatically increase its uranium enrichment after saboteurs attacked a nuclear site "an answer to your evilness," saying Israel hoped to derail ongoing talks aimed at reviving Tehran's tat-tered nuclear deal with world

This weekend's sabotage at the Natanz nuclear facility appears to be part of an escalating shadow war between the two countries. Israeli authorities have not commented on the attack, but are carried it out.

Iran announced on Tuesday it would increase uranium enrichment up to 60%, its highest level ever, in response to the attack. That could draw further retaliation as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed never to allow Tehran to obtain a nuclear weapon. While Iran's move keeps enrichment below weapons-grade levels of 90%, it is a short step away.

Speaking to his Cabinet, an impassioned President Hassan Rouhani said the first-genera-

widely suspected of having tion IR-1 centrifuges that were damaged in the attack would be replaced by advanced IR-6 centrifuges that enrich uranium much faster.

"You wanted to make our hands empty during the talks but our hands are full, Rouhani said.

He was referring to ongoing talks in Vienna that are aimed at finding a way for the United States to re-enter Tehran's nuclear agreement with world powers and have Iran comply again with its limits. The accord, which former President Donald Trump withprevented Iran from stockpiling enough high-enriched uranium to be able to pursue a nuclear weapon in exchange for the lifting of economic sanc-

Rouhani added: "60% enrichment is an answer to your evilness. ... We cut off both of your hands, one with IR-6 centrifuges and another one with 60%

Rouhani also accused Israel of being behind the Natanz attack

"Apparently this is a crime by the Zionists. If the Zionists

take an action against our nation, we will respond," he said, without elaborating.

In Jerusalem at a Memorial commemoration, Netanyahu appeared to reference Iran.

"We must never remain apathetic to the threats of war and extermination of those who seek to eliminate us," he

Rouhani in his comments Wednesday insisted Iran is still hoping that the Vienna talks lead to a negotiated settlement over its program — and the accompanying lifting of pun-

ishing sanctions.

France, Germany and the United Kingdom, all parties to the nuclear deal, issued a joint statement Wednesday expressing their "grave concern" over Iran's decision to increase enrichment.

"This is a serious development since the production of highly enriched uranium constitutes an important step in the production of a nuclear weapon," the countries said. "Iran has no credible civilian need for enrichment at this

Saudi Arabia, a

regional rival to Iran, similarly issued a statement, saying enriching at that level "could not be considered a program intended for peaceful purpos-

"The kingdom calls on Iran to avoid escalation and not to subject the security and stability of the region to more tension, and to engage seriously in the current negotiations," Saudi Arabia said.

Iran insists its nuclear program is peaceful, though the West and the International Atomic Energy Agency says Tehran had an organized mil-

itary nuclear program up until the end of 2003. An annual US intelligence report released Tuesday maintained the American assessment that 'Iran is not currently undertaking the key nuclear weapons-development activities that we judge would be necessary to produce a nuclear

Iran previously had said it could use uranium enriched up to 60 per cent for nuclear-powered ships. However, the Islamic Republic currently has no such ships in its navy.

TERROR RE-EMERGES IN BALOCHISTAN

Quetta: Pakistan's Balochistan continues to keep the country's security forces under constant check from different parts of the province. carrying out terror attacks, targeted killings, kidnappings and bomb blasts, performance of the security forces and sending fear down the spines of the

RISE IN AFGHAN CIVILIAN CASUALTIES: REPORT

Kabul: A UN report on Wednesday showed that at least 573 civilians were killed and 1,210 others wounded in the first three months of 2021, which is a 29 per cent increase as compared to the same period last year.

GLOBAL COVID CASELOAD TOPS 137.2 MILLION Washington: The overall global Covid-19 caseload has topped 137.2 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 2.95 million, according to the

Johns Hopkins University.

Nancy invites Biden to address joint session of **US Congress**

Washington: US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi has invited President Ioe Biden to address a joint session of Congress on April 28.

This would be President Biden's maiden address to a Joint Session of Congress.

"Nearly 100 days ago, when you took the oath of office, you pledged in a spirit of great hope that 'Help Is On The Way'. Now, because of your historic and transformative leadership, Help Is Here!" Pelosi wrote in a let-

"In that spirit, I am writing to invite you to address a Joint Session of Congress on April 28, to share your vision for addressing the challenges and opportunities of this historic moment," she said.

PUBLIC NOTICE General public is hereby informed that Sh. Shobhraj Yadav S/o Sh. Dudhnath Yadav is intending to sell Residential Plot No. 23, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., out Residential Plot No. 23, area measuring 25 Sq. Yds. ou of Khasra No. 1014/2, Situated in the area of Subhash Park Village Makanpur, Khora Colony, Pargana Loni Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, U.P., to Smt. Sapna Dev Wi. Sh. Rakesh Kumar Prajapah. to be financed by Mrs. DM Housing Finance Pvt. Ltd. The Original GPA of 05.03.1999 vide doc. No. 2029 pertaining to the aloresal property has been lost and LAR NO. 179354/2021 has been registered on 26.03.2021 with UP Police. Have perspoke have are injections for claim in this Have perspoke have are injections for claim in this Deen registered on 20.5 2021 with Profice. If any person(s) have any objection(s) or claim in this property, then contact the undersigned within 14 days from date of this notice on below address, failing which, if will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of the aforesaid property. Bankow Timeri (Advancedo

nty. Raghav Tiwari (Advocate Ch. 830, Patiala House Courts, New Delhi – 11000 Mob.:+91-807618832

PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given by our client Mrs Rakesh Kumari Paul that the partnership irm M/s Aloha Enterprises subsisting petween Mrs. Rakesh Kumari Paul and Mi Rahul Mamtani having Franchise of Geetanjali Salon at C-364, Upper GF ikaspuri, Delhi-110018 is dissolved w.e.f 16.04.2021 and our client shall not be he acts, deeds or things done by Mr. Rahu Mamtani for and on behalf of the firm. Sd/

Yogesh Goel (Advocate Enrl. No. D/1956/2010 742/45, Shambhu Nagar, Tri Nagar, Delhi-35

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I, Ashok Wadia son of Late Shr Krishan Lal, authorised signatory of M/s Dals Overseas Private Limited having its registered office at A-186 Okhla Industrial Area Phase-1, Nev Delhi-110020 have lost the origina perpetual lease deed of property No A-186, Okhla Industrial Area Phase-1 New Delhi-110020, in the name of M/s Attock Saw Mills. If any body found please contact at 08373919137.

Known to all that my client Nirmal Bafna is the owner of land measuring 6 bighas, Khasra nos. 77/55/1, 15/2 min, 16/2 min, 25/4 min, 25/4 min, Village Ghevra, Delhi-110081. And he has lost original three sale deeds dt. 28.04 2008 related to above property i.e. (1)Sale deed executed by Viljay Krishan Khanna in favour of Nirmal Bafna and (3)Sale deed executed by Ajay Krishan Khanna in favour of Nirmal Bafna and (3)Sale deed executed by Kumud Krishan Khanna in favour of Nirmal Bafna and (12)Sale deed executed by Kumud Krishan Khanna in favour of Nirmal Bafna Police complaint of 1.2, 04, 2021 was lodged with Delhi Police. It is informed that any deal with said lost deeds by any person except my said client regarding said property, shall be deemed as null and void. If any person found said deeds or is having right in said property then he may contact and handow the same and doprise his claim to undersigned the same and optise his claim to undersigned the MEMICOLOGUTION.

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Hong Kong's delayed legislative elections set for December

AP ■ HONG KONG

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam has said that the semi autonomous Chinese territory's legislative elections will take place in December, more than a year after they were post-poned by authorities citing public health risks from the coronavirus pandemic.

Lam also said on Tuesday that laws will be amended so that inciting voters not to vote or to cast blank or invalid votes will be made illegal, although voters themselves are free to boycott voting or cast votes as they wish.

"When a person willfully obstructs or prevents any person from voting at an election, we will consider it corrupt conduct," said Lam.

Lam said that the elections will take place on December 19. The elections were initially slated to be held last September.

Lam was speaking a day ahead of the first reading of draft amendments to various laws in the city's legislature, to accommodate Beijing's planned changes to the city's electoral

announced changes to Hong Kong's electoral system, expanding the number of seats in the legislature while reducing the number of directlyelected seats from 35 to 20.

The move is part of a twophase effort to rein in political

and opposition in Hong Kong, which is part of China but has had a

more liberal political system as a former British colony. China imposed a national security law on Hong Kong last year and is fol-

lowing up this year with a revamp of the electoral process.

The crackdown comes in the wake of months of pro-democracy protests in 2019 that brought hundreds of thousands to the streets and turned violent as the government resisted the movement's

In the current 70-member legislature, voters elect half the members and the other half are chosen by constituencies representing various professions and interest groups.

Myanmar charges doctors over civil disobedience protests

Yangon: Myanmar's ruling junta has charged at least 19 medical doctors for participating in civil disobedience protests against the military's February 1 coup, a state-run newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Doctors, nurses and medical students have marched and joined strikes to show their opposition to the military takeover that ousted Aung San Suu Kyi's democratically elected government and put a halt to the progress Myanmar had made toward greater democratization after five decades of military rule.

The doctors charged are accused of supporting and participating in the civil disobedience movement "with the aim of deteriorating the state administrative machinery," the

Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper wrote.

The military government has already issued arrest warrants for 100 people active in the fields of literature, film, theater arts, music and journalism on charges of spreading information that undermines the stability of the country and the rule of law.

This isn't the first time doctors have been targeted. Earlier this month in Mandalay, the country's second-biggest city, security forces used stun grenades and fired guns to break up a march by medical workers protesting the army's takeover. The online news site The Irrawaddy reported that four doctors were arrested.

Protests continued Wednesday across Myanmar even as people boycotted the

Thingyan, the country's traditional New Year, usually a time for family reunions and merry-In leaflets and social media

posts last week, people were asked not to hold any Thingyan celebrations, saying it would be disrespectful to "fallen martyrs" to enjoy the festival. The government's violent

response to anti-coup demonstrations has seen 714 people killed by security officials, according to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. Last week, at least 82 peo-

ple were killed in one day in a crackdown by security forces on protesters, according to reports from independent local media and AAPP.

US President to present on Wednesday details of plan to withdraw all troops from Afghan

Washington: US President Joe Biden plans to present on Wednesday the details of his plans to have all American troops out of war-torn Afghanistan by September 11 this year, the 20th anniversary of the 2001 terrorist attack on the twin towers in New York.

Ahead of a formal announcement, a senior official said Biden has decided to draw down the remaining US troops from Afghanistan and finally end the US war there after 20 years. There are currently 2,500 ÚS troops in Afghanistan.

"The president will deliver remarks tomorrow on the way forward in Afghanistan, including plans and timeline for withdrawing US troops in close coordination with our partners, allies and the Afghan government, also his commitment to focusing on threats and opportunities we face around the world," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said on Tuesday.

Biden has reached a conclusion

According to an official,

that the United States will complete its drawdown and remove its forces from Afghan before September 11. 'We will begin an orderly drawdown of the remaining forces before May 1 and plan to

have all US troops out of the country before the 20th anniversary of 9/11," the official said. He said the withdrawal of troops is not conditions-based. "The president has judged

that a conditions-based approach, which has been the case in the past two decades, is a recipe for staying in Afghanistan forever," said the senior official.

EU to negotiate major vaccine contract extension with Pfizer

Brussels: EU Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen announced plans Wednesday for a major contract extension

accines with Pfizer stretch-

In a sign of confidence in company that has been a mainstay of Europe's vaccination drive so far, von der Leyen said the EU will start negotiat-

the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine through 2023.

Von der Leyen expressed full confidence in the technology used for the Pfizer-

"We need to focus on the

BioNTech vaccine, which is different from the one used for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine.

technologies that have proven

their worth," von der Leyen

European Commission

currently has a portfolio of 2.3 billion doses from a half dozen companies and is negotiating more contracts.

'China-India border tensions 'remain high' despite some force pullbacks'

der tensions "remain high" despite some force pullbacks multi-billion-dollar Belt and this year, the US intelligence Road Initiative (BRI) to expand community has told Congress, its economic, political and milasserting that Beijing seeks to itary presence abroad, while ernment tools to demonstrate its growing strength and compel regional neighbours to acquiesce to its preferences, including its claims over dis-

The Office of the Director National Intelligence (ODNI) said in its latest annual threat assessment report to

as per following schedule:-

23:40

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the US Congress that Beijing will continue to promote the exploitative practices, which have led to international criti-

The BRI is a multi-billiondollar initiative launched by Chinese President Xi when he came into power in 2013. It aims to link Southeast Asia, Central Asia, the Gulf region, Africa and Europe with a net-

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"China-India border ten-

sions remain high, despite some force pullbacks this year. China's occupation since May 2020 of contested border areas decades and led to the first lethal border clash between the two countries since 1975," the report said.

"Âs of mid-February, after multiple rounds of talks, both sides were pulling back forces and equipment from some sites along the disputed border," it

New Zealand

bans live cow exports due to welfare concerns

Wellington: New Zealand announced Wednesday it is banning the export of live cows and other farm animals by sea due to welfare concerns.

Agriculture Minister Damien O'Connor said the ban would take up to two years to be fully enforced to give those who had invested in the business a chance to transition out.

The country temporarily suspended such exports last year after a ship carrying 5,800 cattle that was bound for China sank in stormy weather near Japan, killing more than 40 crew members and the animals. Officials had already begun a review of live exports the previous year.

Ex-US officials visit Taiwan amid China tensions

Taipei: A former US senator and two ex-State Department officials arrived in Taiwan on Wednesday for talks with the island's leaders at a time of tense relations with China.

senator from Connecticut from 1981 to 2011, was accompanied by two former deputy secretaries of state, James Steinberg from the Democratic Obama administration and Richard Armitage, who served under Republican President George W Bush. The delegation will meet

President Tsai Ing-wen on Thursday and exchange views with other government departments during their three-day visit, the Foreign Ministry said. The US has repeatedly

expressed concern about Chinese military activity near Taiwan including frequent military flights.

Taiwan Foreign Ministry

spokesperson Joanne Ou said the government welcomed the delegation from President Joe Biden's administration, whose visit "conveys the US's firm friendship and support for

China proposes unification with Taiwan under the "one country, two systems" model it has enforced in the former British colony of Hong Kong, virtually eliminating political opposition and strongly restricting freedom of speech. A large majority of Taiwanese favor the current system of de facto independence while maintaining close economic ties with China.

The US has only unofficial relations with Taiwan but is bound under American law to ensure the island can defend itself from attacks and to treat all threats against it as a matter of "grave concern."

Putin gets second Covid vaccine shot

Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday he got his second Covid-19 vaccine shot, three weeks after getting the first announced getting the jab, which was kept out of the public eye, at a session of the Geographical Russian Society, in which he took part via video link.

"Right now, before entering this hall, I have also gotten the second jab. I hope everything will be fine. I don't even hope as much as I'm sure of it," Putin said.

The president told reporters after the event that he didn't experience any adverse effects after the second shot. "As you see, everything is normal, no side effects," Putin said, adding that doctors told him he developed "a good immune response" after the first shot.

Putin got his first coronavirus shot on March 23, also out of sight of the cameras, and the Kremlin wouldn't reveal which of the three vaccines cur-

Russia the president has taken. The Russian leader's vaccination comes several months after widespread immunization against Covid-19 started in Russia — a delay that puzzled many, with some critics arguing that it was contributing to the already existing public hes-

itancy about the vaccine. Russian authorities have given regulatory approval to three domestically developed shots — Sputnik EpiVacCorona and CoviVac. All three received authorization before completing advanced trials experts say are necessary to ensure their safety and effectiveness in line with established scientific protocol. AP

Lanka bans 11 extremist groups, including ISIS, al-Qaeda

Colombo: Sri Lanka has banned 11 hardline Islamist organisations, including the Islamic State (ISIS) and al-Qaeda, for their links to extremist activities in the country, according to an official announcement.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa under a special gazette notification issued on Tuesday proscribed the radical groups under the Prevention of Terrorism (temporary) Provisions Act. The notification specifies

contravention or conspires to act would be sentenced to prison terms between 20 and 10 years. Among the banned organ-

that any person who acts in

isations are local Muslim groups, including the Sri Lanka Islamic Students Movement. In the immediate aftermath of the 2019 Easter Sunday

suicide bomb attacks, Sri Lanka had banned the local Jihadi group National Thowheeth Jamaath (NTJ) and two other

The NTJ suicide bomb attacks on churches and luxury hotels here had killed 270 people while injuring 500 oth-

A special probe panel appointed in 2019 by former President Maithripala Sirisena had recommended the banning of Muslim extremist organisations who advocate radicalism in the Buddhist-majority coun-

The report also asked for the banning of an extremist Buddhist group, BBS or the

Forces of Buddhist Power. The panel said that the BBS' actions had contributed to the radicalisation of Muslims.

The gazette, however, has excluded the Buddhist group. The panel report was

rejected by all political parties

despite the head of the local Catholic church Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith urging the implementation of its recommendations which he said would give some justice to the victims of the bombings.

A royal official said mem-

Former MI5 spy chief Baron Parker has been in place as the new Lord Chamberlain since April 1 and will be in overall charge of Saturday's

measures mean only 30 people are able to attend the Royal Ceremonial event, which will include the Queen's close family. Inside the chapel, the royal family will wear face masks and keep to social distancing rules.

Queen returns to royal duties after husband death London: Britain's Queen ed her former royal aide's wand

Elizabeth II has returned to roval duties, four days after her husband Prince Philip - the Duke of Edinburgh's death last The 94-year-old monarch

hosted an audience with Earl Peel for his retirement as he formally stepped down as Lord Chamberlain, in charge of organising royal ceremonies. During a private in-person event held at Windsor Castle on Tuesday, the Queen accept-

and office insignia. "Earl Peel had an audience

of The Queen today, delivered up his Wand and Insignia of Office as Lord Chamberlain and the Badge of Chancellor of the Royal Victorian Order and took leave upon relinquishing his appointment as Lord Chamberlain, when Her Majesty invested him with the Royal Victorian Chain," read the details in the Court Circular, a daily list of the

Queen and the royal family. According to their official

official events attended by the

website, the royal family carries out more than 2,000 official engagements throughout the UK and overseas every year. While the UK's national

mourning after the passing of Prince Philip on April 9 will run until the morning after his funeral at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle on Saturday, the royal family is observing a week before his death. two weeks of mourning.

bers of the family would continue to undertake engagements "appropriate to the circumstances" Over the weekend, Prince

Andrew – the Queen's son, said his father's death had left a "huge void" in his mother's life. Earl Peel would have over-

seen the funeral arrangements - referred to as Operation Forth Bridge - before handing responsibility to his successor

funeral. Coronavirus lockdown

Hiring to grow by 7% in Apr-June: Report

¬he intent to hire in the current quarter is likely to rise by 7 per cent over the previous three months if further lockdowns and workplace operating rules are not enforced, mainly driven by demand in healthcare, pharmaceuticals, educational services, ecommerce and technology start-ups and IT, according to a report.

In fact, out of the 21 sections are provided in the section of the 21 sections are the section of the 21 sections and the section of the 21 sections are the section of the s

tors reviewed, more than 8 sectors will witness a 9-11 per cent rise in their intent to hire in the current quarter, TeamLease Employment Outlook Report has revealed.

"Indian economy has been regaining the lost ground and the same was reflecting in hiring as well. Be it the IMF, OECD or Fitch, all have been positive and this was bolstering the business sentiment and

we resort to lockdowns it will derail and further delay the

"In fact, it will impact the scope of growth in employment negatively. If we continue with our efforts and not opt for lockdown, the business optimism will remain intact and so the

The intent to hire will grow from 27 per cent point in January-March to 34 per cent in the current quarter," TeamLease Services co-founder and executive vice president Rituparna Chakraborty said.

The report is based on a survey among 712 small, medium and large companies across the 21 sectors pan-India from January to June.

The report further revealed that healthcare, pharmaceuticals, educational services, ecommerce and technology

nology are the key sectors, who are likely to ramp up their talent pool.

In fact, more than 58 per cent of the corporates in healthcare

and pharmaceuticals sectors, which is nearly 11 per cent higher than the January-March period, are keen on hiring tal-

Educational services, ecommerce and technology start-ups and IT have also indicated similar enthusiasm with 55 per cent, 51 per cent and 50 per cent the companies, respectively, expressing intent to hire.

According to the report, while there is an overall posiivity, power and energy, BPO/ITeS, media and entertainment, consulting, marketing and advertising, travel and hospitality may take more time

hire enthusiasm that the other sectors are expressing.

Further, from a geography perspective, while metro and tier I cities (32 per cent) take the lead in terms of overall intent to hire, tier-III cities are not far behind.

Delving deep into cities barring for Kochi, Coimbatore, Nagpur and Kolkata most of the towns have expressed a growth in keenness to hire. Meanwhile, with regard to

functional areas similar to the previous quarter, sales (41 per cent) and marketing (34 per cent) continues to be the most sought after functional roles. However, when it comes to

hierarchy the preferences seem to have changed substantially as the intent to hire senior-level talent has dropped by 4 per cent point over January-March,

70% employers resume hiring for blue collar jobs: Survey

Mumbai: With the vaccination drive in full swing in the country and high optimism on the economic recovery, the hiring of blue collar workers is resurging as 70% of employers polled in a survey said they have resumed recruitment. Of the 70 % employers polled in the second edition of OLX People Survey, nearly 16% said they are hiring 100 per cent of capacity, while 54% are hiring up to 50% of capacity. About 60% of employers stated that they have faced no challenges in availability of talent, despite the fact that a large number of gig workers had preferred to return to their native place at the height of the pandemic.

Recruitment activity logs 2% drop in March over previous month: Report

The recruitment activity saw a drop of 2 per cent in March 2021 over the previous month, mainly dragged by a decline in job postings in sectors including banking/financial services, insurance, production and manufacturing, according to a report. The overall data indicate

that there was a slight decline in job posting activity in March, according to Monster Employment Index, a job report Monster.Com, a Quess

Markets undeterred by Covid, fundraising

ıncreases

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite the uncertainty prevailing in FY 2020-21 owing to Covid-19 pandemic, fundraising in FY 2020-21 was better than that in FY 2019-20 for both Public Issues and Rights Issues, the finance ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

During FY 2020-21, ₹46,029.71 crore and ₹ 64,058.61 crore were raised through Public Issues and Rights Issue respectively, as against ₹21,382.35 crore and ₹55,669.79 crore raised last year. This is an increase of 115 per cent and 15 per cent respectively in FY 2020-21 as compared to last year. In FY21, in all 56 public issues were launched, including 55 initial public offers

public offer (FPO). The number of rights issue was also a high of 21.A finance ministry tweet said that last year around 2003 issues of Corporate Bonds for an amount of ₹7,82,427.39 crore also happened, surpassing the amount raised (₹6,89,686.19 crore) through 1,821 issues for the fiscal year 2019-20. Thus, while the number of issues increased by 10 per cent in FY 2020-21, the amount raised increased by 13.5 per cent as compared to the previous financial year.

(IPO) and only one follow on

With regard to mutual funds, the finance ministry said that Indian capital market has shown its resilience to withstand the ripples caused by exogenous shocks like the pan-

Tech stocks turn attractive for mutual funds amid pandemic

IANS ■ MUMBAI

 $T_{among\ the\ favoured\ stocks}$ among mutual funds amid the pandemic.

Technology sector saw a massive rise in weightage in FY21 to 11.9 per cent (up 300 bps YoY). The sector is now the second in terms of sectoral allocation by MFs, said a Motilal Oswal Financial Services Report. A year ago, it was in the third position.

In terms of value increase on a month-on-month increase in March, three of the top five stocks were from technology Infosys (up Rs 7,000 crore) TCS (up Rs 3,960 crore), and HCL Tech (up Rs 1,690 crore).

Stocks that saw a maximum decline in value MoM were of Reliance Industries, SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Bharti Airtel, Coal India, HDFC, Vedanta, and Info Edge.

The Fund Folio report also said that the year saw a notable change in the sector and stock allocation of funds. The weightage of domestic cyclicals increased by 160 basis points to 58 per cent, led by an increase in the weightage of automobiles, NBFCs, cement, real estate, chemicals, and infra-

Weightage of defensive stocks decreased 100 basis points to 32.5 per cent, led by consumer, utilities, and telecom. Global cyclicals' weightage, too, fell 60 basis points to per cent.

The consumer sector slipped to fourth place from second place a year ago, with a 240 bps decreased in weightage to 7.4 per cent.

Metals improved its position to 14 from 16 a year ago, with the weightage increasing by 80 bps to 2.6 per cent. Assets under management

(AUM) of the mutual fund industry witnessed a growth of 41 per cent in the last financial year to touch a new high of Rs 31.4 lakh crore. The growth was primarily led by an increase in AUM of equity funds (Rs 4.09 lakh crore), income funds (Rs 2.39 trillion) and other ETFs (Rs 1.29 lakh crore), the report said. Equity AUM, including ELSS and index funds, of domestic mutual funds reached new highs of Rs 10.2 lakh crore (up 67 per cent YoY) in FY21, led by a rise in market indices.

Global stocks follow Wall St higher after US inflation rises

lobal stock markets and Wall Street futures rose Wednesday after traders shrugged off higher US inflation and a decline in Japanese machinery orders.

London and Paris opened higher while Shanghai, Hong Kong and Seoul rose. Tokyo was off less than 0.5%. On Tuesday, Wall Street's

benchmark S&P 500 index climbed 0.3% to a new high, propelled by tech and consumer stocks on optimism the vaccine rollout will allow business activity to return to normal. Johnson & amp; Johnson fell 1.3% after US regulators suspended use of its single-dose vaccine to investigate possibly dangerous blood clots.

The US government reported consumer prices increased by a stronger-thanexpected 0.6% in March, the fastest rate since 2012. Higher inflation normally fuels fears interest rates might be raised to keep prices stable, but the Federal Reserve has said the economy will be allowed to "run hot" to ensure a recovery

Traders "took the welltelegraphed inflation pick-up' in stride," Stephen Innes of Axi said in a report. Markets also are "seemingly unfazed" by the J&J suspension.

In early trading, London's FTSE 100 was up less than 0.1% at 6,896.64. Frankfurt's DAX declined less than 0.1% to 15,222.10 while the CAC 40 in Paris gained 0.2% to 6,196.15.

On Wall Street, the future for the S&P 500 index was up less than 0.1% while that for the Dow Jones Industrial Average was unchanged. The Dow, which includes J&J, fell 0.2% on Tuesday. The Nasdaq, with more technology stocks, gained In Asia, the Shanghai

Composite Index advanced 0.6% to 3,416.72 and the Hang Seng in Hong Kong added 1.3% to 28,855.83.The Nikkei 225 in Tokyo shed 0.4% to 29,620.99 after government data showed February machinery orders fell by an unexpectedly wide margin of 8.5% from the previous month, adding to concern about the country's

Land value within 500 metre of upcoming metro corridors to rise 10-15%

s several cities add metro As several cities and -port facilities or extend their existing networks, a JLL report said that land value within 500 metre of upcoming metro corridors is expected to increase by 10-15 per cent, according to a JLL report.

Noting that India was introduced to the metro rail as an alternative mode of transport three decades, the report said: "Since then, the advantages of the metro rail system have increased many-folds. Primarily it has been the enhanced connectivity to the suburbs of the city, thus enabling distribution of the city population to a larger extent of land resulting to congestion reduction in the city."

Covering a total of 760.62 km across India with another 578.34 km under construction, the past two decades has seen a tremendous growth of the metro rail.

Cities_including Kochi, Chennai, Bengaluru, Nagpur and Nashik have seen significant expansion of new metro lines, which was highlighted by the Finance Minister in the Union Budget hearing in January 2021. Further, two new tech-

nologies including MetroLite and MetroNeoare are being planned to provide affordable connectivity options in tier II cities and peripheral parts of tier I cities. "The real estate market

has seen a steady growth along the metro corridors, owing to increase in developments alongside the routes. Furthermore, on an average, the land value within 500 metre of metro corridors has increased by 15-20 per cent, especially in residential and commercial areas," said A. Shankar, Head - Strategic Consulting and Valuation Advisory, India, JLL. He further said that it has

been observed that appreciation in land value has been on a rise after the metro operation and increase by 2-5 per cent annually over other locations, compared to the construction and planning phase. The deployment of metro corridor directly impacts the real estate sector as it increases the land value, land use change and densification alongside the metro

SIP collections drop to ₹96,000 cr in FY21 amid pandemic-led disruptions

The Mutual fund industry ■ saw its collections through SIPs dropping 4 per cent to Rs 96,000 crore in the 2020-21 fiscal, as COVID-19 induced lockdowns led to income uncertainty.

Going forward, success of the vaccination drive, better than expected economic scenario and higher incomes can be the factors that will have an impact on systematic investment plan or SIP flows, Gopal Kavalireddi, Head of research,

FYERS, said. While a few of the economic indicators like GST collections, auto and housing sales look positive, IIP and inflation data along with intermittent lockdowns can affect the economic progress in the ongoing fiscal, he added.

was collected through SIP in just concluded fiscal, lower than Rs 1,00,084 crore garnered in 2019-20, as per the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI). Inflows into SIPs have aver-

aged about Rs 8,000 crore for the 12 months till March this

PUBLIC NOTICE

Systematic investment plans or SIPs have been the the

preferred route for retail investors to invest in mutual funds as it helps them reduce market timing risk. The mutual fund SIP con-

tribution has increased steadily over the years. From Rs 43,921 crore col-

lected in 2016-17, Rs 67,190 crore in 2017-18, Rs 92,693 crore in 2018-19, the SIP contribution hit the Rs 1 lakh crore mark in 2019-20. Quantum Mutual Fund

Chief Executive Jimmy Patel attributed the decline in SIP numbers to coronavirus-induced lockdown as several investors chose to stop their SIPs.
"With the coronavirus pan-

demic resulting in lockdowns in March 2020 and raising income uncertainty, many investors opted to pause their SIPs. This was evident from the decrease in SIP inflows post

of Rs 8,641 crore the contribution decreased for 11 consecutive months, before it could

Bharti Airtel restructures its corporate structure

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

 $B^{\text{harti Airtel on Wednesday}}_{\text{announced a new corporate}}$ structure with focus on four verticals - Digital, India, International Infrastructure. The new structure envis-

ages Airtel Digital Ltd folding into listed entity, Bharti Airtel. This will now house all of the digital assets spanning Wynk Music, Airtel X stream, Airtel Thanks, Mitra Payments platform used by a million retailers, Airtel Ads, Airtel IQ, Airtel Secure, Airtel Cloud and all future digital products and services, the company said in a statement. The telecom business of the company will be housed in a newly-created entity, Airtel Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bharti Airtel. Bharti Telemedia, the 100 per cent arm operating DTH services, will sit alongside Airtel

There is need for positive regulatory framework for internet cos: Facebook India head

 $F_{\text{Mohan said there is a need}}^{\text{acebook India Head Ajit}}$ for a "forward-looking and positive regulatory framework" for internet companies, and that organisations also need to be more transparent about how they use customer data.

The executive noted that India has seen an "explosive shift" in terms of access to the internet and this expanded access gas-driven the emergence of entirely new models, a feat that no other country has managed to do so much in such a short period of time.

"We absolutely do believe that the internet needs new rules, not just in India but around the world. We operated for a very long time with not enough clarity on the traffic lights. And this is the moment when we should think especially in democratic societies, think about how we navigate complex issues where there are competing trade-offs. I'm hoping that we can emerge with a very forward-looking and positive regulatory framework," he said at the Raisina

Managing Director, Facebook India, said that there are a few areas that the regulations can

focus on.

"One is transparency mandates. Make it the company's to be more transparent about how data is used. Second, there's a lot of concern about algorithms, and how machines are controlling people's lives. I think we would be very keen to lean in and say how do we protect user agency where people have the opportunity to make explicit choices that drive algorithms," he said.

Mohan added that a lot of the conversation has been about how large tech companies benefit from large sets of

"I think we have been very forward in saying we are open to creating frameworks that still protect the interests of privacy and safety when data moves around, but make it easier for users to move data between competing platforms. I do believe that we are a partner in this. But I agree with the framework that we need rules and we hope those will be forwardlooking and positive," he said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Principal Chief Materials Manager Headquarters Office, Baroda House, New Delhi-110001 Mail ID: salenr365@gmail.com

No. 117-S-Sales-Auction Programme- 2021-22

Dated. 12.04.2021 e-AUCTION NOTICE NO. June/2021

E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous Scrap, Non Ferrous Scrap, Other Misc Scrap, Condemned Loco, Coaches and Wagons, Scrap Rail and other scrap P Way material. Used lead Acid Batteries/Used oil/Refused oil will be sold only to recyclers registered with State Pollution Control Board. Auction programme is as under. e-AUCTION DATES FOR 'June, 2021.

S. No Depot conducting auction 1st round 2nd round 4th round 3rd round Alambagh/Lucknow 0522-2451257 Shakurbasti 011-27015387 Jagadhari 01732-252388 14 21 Sr.DMM/LKO 0522-2234756 14 21 28 Sr.DMM/FZR 01632-244154 10 17 Sr.DMM/UMB 0171-2611203 9 16 23 2 17 Sr.DMM/MB 0591-2413141 10 24

E-Auction will be held from 10:00 AM on wards as per above programme

Sr.DMM/DLI 011-23365311

1. The details of item to be sold in auction will be available in catalogue at www.ireps.gov.in. 2. The intending purchasers may inspect the scrap material before the auction during working

hours at nominated locations.

To participate in e-auction, purchasers need to get themselves registered with The details on last sold rates in auctions are available at www.railnet.gov.in.

4. ireps. For further details regarding registration and other conditions of e-auction, please visit Railway website 'www.ireps.gov.in'.

> Dy. Chief Material Manager/Sig/C-I SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

15

22

(Amir Chand)

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

8

General public is hereby informed that one lady namely Ram Devi, W/o Sh. Shiv Dayal, R/o H.No. H-2/5 Budh Vihar, Phase-I, Delhi. Age about 40 yrs., Height 5', Wheatish Complexion, Long face, Medium Built wearing dark blue colour suit-salwar and chappal in feet has been missing since 22.03.2021 from the area of PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case DD No. 61-A

Dt. 22.03.2021 has been lodged at PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this missing lady may kindly inform to the following.

SEARCH FOR MISSING LADY

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in Fax: 011-23011334 Ph.: 011-23014046 011-23015218 DP/782/RD/2021

Ram Devi

S.H.O. PS Vijay Vihar, Delhi. Ph.: 011-27061294, 27061295

General public is hereby informed that

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

one person namely Yogender Kumar Gupta S/o Sh. Anand Swaroop Gupta R/o H.No.2, Pkt-16, Sec-24, Rohini, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS: Budh Vihar, Delhi since 24.03.2021. In this regard, a case DD No. 51A Dated 24.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing person as Age: 47 Years, Complexion: Wheatish,



Height: 6', Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue colour shirt & jeans and black colour shoes in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped person then please inform P.S. Budh Vihar Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639 DP/770/RD/2021

Sd/- S.H.O. PS: Budh Vihar, Delhi Ph: 011-27052772/73

hereby informed that one lady Namely Rajeshwari W/o Sonpal R/o E-82, Prem Nagar-I, Kirari, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from her house since dated 16.03.2021 with her 8 years old son namely Sooraj S/o Sonal, Height 3'

the missing lady is as under



SOORAJ 6" Face: Round. In this regard, a case DD NO. 46A dt. 18.03.2021 has been registered at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. The description of

Age: 35 Years Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5', Face: Round Wearing: White Colour Saaree. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. I anyone has any information about the missing/Kidnapped lady and her son then please inform P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi at following Tel No./ e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: http://cbi.nic.in providing clue about the person

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 Sd/- SHO Fax No. 011-24368639 PS: Prem Nagar, Delhi PH.: 9315164042, 9850870322 DP/783/RD/2021

Mrs. Khushboo Garg

W/o Mr. Hitesh Agarwal

A total of Rs 96,080 crore March 2020. From a high

breach the previous highs," FYERS' Kavalireddi said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client HDFC Ltd. who had disburse a Loan to Mrs. Kusum and Mr. Nitin aring No. A-1006, 10th Floor, Triden Embassy, Greater Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P. has come to the notice that the original property documents viz Agreement to sell dated 29 12 2017 executed between M/s. HT Media Ltd and Mrs.Kusum and Mr. Nitir Arora is not traceable. It is hereby appealed to the general public that whosoever finds the document mentioned hereinabove may kindly return the same to the HDFC Ltd., The Capital Court, Munirka, Outer Ring Road, Olof Palme Marg, New Delhi

Karnail Singh, Advocate

It is for information of general public that

the original Sale Deed of Upper Ground Floor of Property No. C-40, situated in hashi Garden, Mayur Vihar-1, Delhi 110091, jointly owned by Sh. Vikrant Vikram Singh and Sh. Uttam Kumar, by virtue of Sale Deed duly registered as document no. 2778. addl. book no. 1, volume no. 5263, pages 125 to 130, dated 15-02-2011, sub-Registrar-VIII, Delhi, has been lost/misplaced. anybody has any right, title or interest in the said property and/or has any type of objection in the same, may approach to the above noted owners withing 10 days from the date of publication of this notice.

214/4,New Lahore, Shastri Nagar, Delhi-110031, Enrl. No. D-761/200 Saket New Delh

Naqi Asad (Advocate)

Retail Asset Centre, Delhi: Lower Ground Floor and Upper Ground Floor, Himalaya House, K.G. Marg, Delhi-110001.
Also at: Axis Bank Ltd., Axis House, Tower T-2, 2nd Floor, I-14, Sector-128, Noida Expressway, Jaypee Greens Wishtown, Noida (U.P.)-201301 Corporate Office: 'Axis House', Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhkar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-40025, Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samartheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380006

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Axis Bank Ltd. under the Securitisatio Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of he powers conferred under section 13 (12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement rules 2002, issued demand notice upon the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s) Mortgagor(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) having failed to repay the amount

notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/ here under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates.
The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) in particular and the public in genera

are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject The Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) attention is invited to provisions of

sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets Name of Borrower / Co-borrower Description of Property Notice 2.Date of Possession 1.Mr. Hitesh Agarwal S/O Mr. Ramesh Chand Agarwal U-23/35 Ground Floor, Pink Town House

Immovable Asset: Residential Ground Floor Dwelling Unit called 'Town House' having its U Block, DLF Phase-III, Gurgaon-122022, Haryana Also At: Mr. Hitesh Agarwal S/O Mr. Ramesh Chand Agarwal covered area of 76.50 Sq. Mtrs. (823 Sq. Ft.) bearing No. U-23/35 together with impartible and undivided Ramesh Chand Agarwal 2.12-04-2021 3.Rs.71.16.421/-28A Deepali Jeevan Jyoti Nagar Kishangarh, Madanganj, Ajmer, Rajasthan-305801 Also At Mr. Hitesh prorate share of land in Plot No. 35, Road No. U-23, measuring 125.07 Sq. Mtrs. In (HTR005602473530) Agarwal S/O Mr. Ramesh Chand Agarwal Price Water House & Co. Chartered Accountants LLP Building 8, 7th & 8th Floor, Tower-B, DLF Cyber City, the Residential Colony Known as DLF City, Phase-III, (Earlier known as DLF Qutub Enclave Gurgaon-122002, Haryana Complex), situated in and 2. Mrs. Khushboo Garg W/o Mr. Hitesh Agarwal U-23/35 Ground around Village Nathupur Tehsil & Distt. Gurgaor Floor, Pink Town House, U Block, DLF (Haryana)

Phase-III, Gurgaon-122022, Haryana Also At Mrs. Khushboo Garg Shastri Nagar Colony, Aimer Road Kekri, West: Property No. U-23/34 North: Road South: Property No. U-22/19 W/o Mr. Hitesh Agarwal 28A Deepali Jeevan Jyoti Nagar, Kishangarh, Madanganj, Ajmer, Rajasthan-305801

The above-mentioned Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)/ Mortgagor(s) are hereby given a 30 days' Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold on the expiry of 30 days' from the date of publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under the Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: 15-04-2021

Authorized Officer

https://www.dailypioneer.com/vivacity/

10

TAKE YOUR CALL

One out of five students face the indecision of whether they should study in India or abroad. ASHISH FERNANDO shares six factors that can help you decide



ne out of every five students face the indecision of whether they should study in India or abroad. Here are six factors that can help you have a better future.

Every student planning their higher education faces many choices. Some of the most important decisions to make range from choosing the right course, a good university and even the right country. Where you choose to pursue your education can drastically change your future. Most students who decide between their country options, compare the pros and cons with the same burning questions:

☐How does the cost of education differ?

Depending upon the course you choose, studying in India can be cheaper than studying in a university abroad. India has some of the world's most affordable higher education options. Thus, Indian universities also attract a lot of global students, especially from

European and African countries.

However, that does not mean that studying abroad cannot be affordable. Students from all financial and academic backgrounds study abroad. If you seek hard enough, you are bound to find an institution that has education costs similar to what you would pay in India. The cost of your education also includes your cost of living, of course. It's important to consider that while living abroad may provide a global outlook on things, staying with your families might be more cost-effective. So, if you're still confused, it's better we consider the next factor.

☐How do we judge the education quality?

The curriculum, the faculty and the scope of research or the subjects taught are the three things every student should look at when judging the education quality of an institution. In India, most institutions fall under a standard government-set curriculum or a private adjustion system. However, get

ting into the apex universities like the IITs and IIMs can be highly competitive with an admission rate as low as 7 per cent. However, institutions abroad tend to have coursework that differs slightly for each university. This means that a student who plans to apply for an MBA can choose to do so in STEM specialisations instead of a traditional module. These kinds of niche specialisations and programmes are often unavailable in India. The handpicked faculty members, advanced teaching methods and higher admission rates in universities abroad, often make it a better option for stu-

□What about job opportunities?

The intention behind almost the entire higher education journey leads to one destination: A well-paying, satisfactory job. Since the degrees from Indian universities are sometimes more affordable, the return on investment is often considerable. However, foreign university degrees are often held in The curriculum, the faculty and the scope of research or the subjects taught are the three things every student should look at when judging the

education

quality of an

institution

the same regard as a degree from a prestigious Indian university. This gives students an edge over others applying for similar jobs in India. Applying to one of the numerous jobs overseas also gives you diverse career options and a higher return on investment.

□Where is it safer?

The physical safety concerns are an inevitable issue faced by every institution worldwide. Many students feel a modicum of comfort in studying in your own country. However, there are many others who note the safety protocols in universities abroad and pursue education there. Student concerns are taken very seriously and help is immediate. In times such as the global pandemic when education has largely gone digital, safety is a severe concern. Indian universities have put strict restrictions on campus learning. While many universities abroad have also done the same, most institutions in countries like the USA, the UK,

duced a partial lecture schedule on campus.

□Which option is better for a career profile?

Whether you plan on staying overseas or coming back to India, pursuing education abroad gives you a global outlook on life. It develops your perspective and decision making skills, thus, helping you build a well-rounded career. However, if you plan on choosing a career that has a greater scope and career options in the Indian industries, staying in India might be what you need to

As you might have noticed, all these factors depend upon one major choice — the course. Be it the curriculum, cost, career or even jobs, the decision you make hinges upon the programme of your choice. The only thing to keep in mind is that country choices are never limited, all that matters is a student's preference.

(The writer if the founder and CEO of iSchoolConnect.)



'A great reference point'

Actor NUSHRRATT BHARUCCHA shares how her househelp enabled her to get a deeper understanding of her character in *Ajeeb Daastaans*

A ctor Nushrratt Bharuccha plays a househelp named Meenal in the forthcoming anthology film *Ajeeb Daastaans*. She recalls how her own help at home helped her prepare for the role.

"I started observing my own househelp to understand her mannerisms and characteristics. She was a great reference point for me and, unknowingly, helped me to get a deeper understanding of my character," the actor

"For three to four hours that she would come, she would make all of us at home happy and 'feel at home' with her fun banter. That is what I wanted my character to portray," she claimed.

The segment featuring Nushrratt is titled *Khilauna*, and it stars Abhishek Banerjee and child star Inayat Verma in pivotal roles. It is directed by Raj Mehta, who shot to fame making the comedy *Good Newwz* in 2019. His segment in *Ajeeb Daastaans*, however, comes with a dark twist.

Ajeeb Daastaans has four segments, with the other stories directed by Shashank Khaitan, Neeraj Ghaywan, and Kayoze Irani. The anthology also stars Fatima Sana Shaikh, Jaideep Ahlawat, Konkona Sen Sharma, Aditi Rao Hydari, Shefali Shah, Manav Kaul and Tota oy Chowdhary.

"Meenal's story is that of an ordinary girl who is struggling to make ends meet, and provide for the best for herself and her sister. I could feel a similarity in Meenal's life and my househelp, who too works hard to provide for her son," Nushrratt said.

Dying to collaborate with Mohit again: Arjun

A ctor Arjun Kapoor is heading to Goa to start shooting for *Ek Villain 2* that also stars John Abraham, Tara Sutaria and Disha Patani. The actor last shot in Goa for his critically acclaimed film *Finding Fanny* with Deepika Padukone and he is excited to go back to the picturesque locations to reunite with his *Half Girlfriend* director Mohit Suri.

Arjun says, "I have been dying to collaborate with Mohit again and we had an amazing time during *Half Girlfriend*, a very different film for me. I really enjoyed myself. He has given me my career's best music. I always say this to my friends and people around me that apart from Aditya Chopra, it is Mohit who has always believed in me so much."

He adds, "He is somebody who I am looking at keeping my head down and learn from again. I really want to get into doing action big time again and



I want to experience working with Mohit on such a big film. To do a sequel, to do a franchise, and to be able to work with an ensemble cast, it's a big one. He, as a director, has been able to bring together John, Me, Tara, Disha, and of course, banging music."

Arjun says he has been a big fan of Mohit since the beginning and is supremely excited about the magic he will make with his music again. He says, "I am a big fan of Mohit Suri. I loved Awarapan. I have to say I have been very fortunate that I have had Ishaqzaade, Two States and Half Girlfriend. I really feel I have been lucky."

have been lucky."

He adds, "He is a great guy to collaborate with. He is so young with his thinking and he allows you to be you. So for me, I think that balance is very important. I am looking forward to working with him again and hoping to give something new to the audience."

To keep your car safe...

...here are five anti-theft devices

The announcement of the vehicle scrappage scheme by the government of India has brought a significant change in the Indian automobile industry and is expected to generate demand for new vehicles. While buying a new car/vehicle is on a surge, buyers/owners of new cars need to take care of its security. We have shortlisted top anti-theft devices that one should have to secure his/her brand new car.

SAFE CAMS DASH CAMS: Installation of CCTV security cameras in your neighbourhood or society won't be enough to protect your car from being stolen. A dash cam provides you with a security system for the vehicle. Usually, the dash cameras are used to record the on-road activity



Camera with 64 GB memory

ensuring the security of your car both on-road and in the parking lot.

STEERING WHEEL LOCK: This is one of the oldest and

This is one of the oldest and most widely used theft prevention devices across the globe. There are many brands and variants available in the market with different specification. Disklok' Security Wheel Lock is the strongest and the premier wheel immobiliser.

GPS TRACKERS: If all the installed devices failed, a GPS tracker will be there to locate your car in real-time. There

are many trackers available in the market and most of them allow for live tracking and other important features like controlling engine immobilising. LetsTrack is one of the companies that provide 24 hours real-time tracking of your vehicle.

VEHICLE ALARM SYSTEM: Alarm systems are

the first line of defence against theft as they start ringing as soon as something untoward happens with the car. Avital's Omega K-9 1 is one of the top sellers on Amazon. Car alarm with keyless entry vehicle security system with shock

SECURITY TIRE CLAMP: One of the best methods to keep a car safe is to lock its tyre with a tyre security clamp. It is the cheapest of all security devices and can be easily available both online and at car servicing vendors.

TRENDBLAZER



SHEFALI SHAH ON WHAT TERRIFIES HER

Actor **SHEFALI SHAH**, who took her acting to the next level with the International Emmy-winning series *Delhi Crime*, says she tackles self-doubt every day.

"It's every single day I go to work. For me, it gets difficult to get out of the vanity van because I have this fear that I am going to stand there dumbfounded when the director says 'action'. Not one day has gone by where I am not terrified. There is a fear that I might just not know," Shefali said.



'I tie up with causes I strongly believe in and, as celebrities, I feel we can make a difference because we have a voice. It should be used to make the world a better place. So, if there is any cause that is for the upliftment and development of society, why not?'

dailytalk sohum shah

'I feel there is an impact of social media but everyone thinks differently. Social media numbers can get you work. But the process which I follow, it doesn't matter to me. I only cast people on acting skills. If I want to be cast, it also has to be (based) on my work.'

OLLY TO RELEASE HIS 'BEST' SONGS

Singer **OLLY ALEXANDER**, who was part of the band Years & Years with Mikey Goldsworthy and Emre Turkmen, will soon be sharing some unreleased songs.

"Some of the songs I never want to throw them away because they still are my babies and I still like parts of them. Maybe another artist would listen and like it, and want to do something, like their own thing, so I've kept a lot of them just in case. But, to be honest, the ones that are the best ones, I'm going to put them out," he said.





STEP TAKEN TO RELIEVE JAIPUR TRAFFIC

for solving the traffic congestion in Jaipur by creating the Jaipur Central Region as a traffic light-free city. In a meeting, chaired by the Minister of Urban Development, Shanti Dhariwal, a few important decisions were taken. It was attended by Gaurav Goel, IAS, JDC, VS Sunda, Chief Engineer, JDA and Anoop Bartaria, Consultant Designer and CMD, Sincere Architects along with their

team.

The feasibility report of four intersections — B2 Bypass, Laxmi Mandir Tiraha, OTS Crossing and 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. The feasibility report included the construction of heritage structures on all the four crossings conserving the heritage and architectural style of Jaipur. In all the crossings, the salient features of them are as under:

□A grand arch in marble and stone craft will be built on the B2 Bypass, which will be 80 feet high. □An underpass connecting the Jawahar Circle to the Mansarovar side will be built. The underpass will be six lanes, which will be unique and decorated with traditional murals of art on both the sides. For turning traffic, two clovers are to be built.

 $\square A$ detailed traffic survey and analysis has already been conduct-

□Smart underpasses and smart cloverleaf bridges will be created, which will be equipped with all IT based systems and IoT platforms. □Street illumination and heritage lighting has been made a part of this

☐Beautiful marble sculptures and traditional scenes of Rajputana will be sculptured in marble and metal on the heritage structures. □First time in Jaipur, you will have pedestrian crossing, which will be totally ramped. It is going to be friendly for physically-challenged and senior citizens.

□A crossing for cyclists along with pedestrian crossovers will be made. The project will tantamount to multiple benefits — it will save fuel around 9.5 lakh liters every year, which will, in turn, result in substantial reduction in air pollution and improve its quality; ease of travel will result in ease of living; it will





also result in reduction of stress levels in travellers as there will be no congestion and of course, will save

JAWAHAR CIRCLE

☐The traffic light on the interface of JLN Road and Jawahar Circle is being removed by creating two major entry transitions, cuts in the median towards Jawahar Circle. The outer ring of Jawahar Circle is going to have a dedicated cycling

track and outer ring will be treated for pedestrian comfort and vehicular travel by stone cobble floor-

□Ă welcome monument abutting the road coming from airport on the south end of Jawahar Circle has been planned. The

monument will be built in white the traffic light at the junction. marble and there will be series of In continuity of the same, the

arches and pillars highlighting the elements of Jaipur architecture. In this entire development of Jawahar Circle, major plantation will also be done to enhance the lanes.

□The parking on the inner road has been designed strictly according to the traffic engineering norms and the entries and exits will be controlled for security and safety of the

☐ Heritage lighting and signages will be also undertaken in the pro-

☐Pet friendly stations, WiFi zones, cafe huts, senior citizen support services and more has also been

LAXMI MANDIR TIRAHA

☐The total amount of cars travelling on Laxmi Mandir Tiraha is 2.0 lakh per day. The signal light of the Laxmi Mandir is being removed by closing the median and for the traffic coming from the Sahakar Bhawan Road on the Tonk Road will be moving on the road

> Nehru Place. An underpass will be constructed which will cross over the Tonk Road and will open towards

between Apex Bank and

Sanganer side, thereby eliminating

Gandhi Nagar traffic light is also proposed to be eliminated by creating an underpass and cloverleaf bridge.

□A statue of freedom fighters will be built in the garden court of Laxmi Mandir Tiraha.

□Sufficient parking a facilities for the occupants abutting the road is also being planned.

□Around 6.50 lakh litres of fuel will be saved per annum.

OTS CROSSING

□The OTS Chauraha will also be free of traffic light and will result into a smooth movement in all directions.

□After an indepth study of movement of traffic, a design has been prepared, which will take care of the six lane traffic on JLN road. A clover on the Jhalana road will be made, which will take care of the turning traffic.

☐A unique gallery of heritage pictures for pedestrian and cyclist traffic connecting all four directions has been planned. This will save 7 lakh litres of fuel per annum. The design has been done by Anoop Bartaria of M/s Sincere Architects Engineers Private Limited.

All the projects will have unique heritage lighting and night illumination will be built in this. The innovative sculptures will enhance the night life of Jaipur.

CRPF celebrates Valour Day

On the occasion of Valour Day, Kuldiep Singh, DG, CRPF paid homage to the bravehearts who sacrificed their lives at the altar of duty. In a solemn ceremony, he paid rich tributes to the martyrs by laying a wreath at the National Police Memorial at Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. Later in the day, an investiture ceremony to facilitate the Gallantry Medal recipients and families of those bravehearts who were awarded Gallantry Medal Posthumously was conducted at Shaurya CRPF Officers institute, New Delhi. Kishan Singh, the surviving veteran of the Sardar Post Battle, was also facilitated in the ceremony.

Extending his best wishes to the personnel and their families, the DG said that the force owes its numerous milestones of success to the martyrs and veterans who scripted several sagas of valour while serving the nation with courage and commitment. He said that the force shall remain indebted to 2,235 martyrs who laid down their lives at the altar

Valour Day is celebrated each year to commemorate the exceptionally awe-inspiring battle at Sardar Post in Rann of Kuchh, Gujarat, where mere two companies of CRPF repulsed the attack of a full fledged Pakistani military brigade on April





9, 1965. Even when faced with sud den onslaught from a numerically superior enemy carrying modern arms and ammunition, the bravehearts of CRPF fought with exceptional courage and bravery. Not only did the CRPF repulse the attack, but it also neutralised 34 Pakistani soldiers and captured four alive. In this battle, seven bravehearts of CRPF made supreme sacrifice.



Powergrid bags ISTD national award

Maharatna entity, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has bagged the third place for Innovative Training Practices
(Public Sector category) 2018-19 at the
29th National Award ceremony held
(HRD, RB & CC) at SCOPE Complex,
New Delhi.

recently at New Delhi by Indian Society for Training & Development (ISTD). The award was received by

Fact check

Bharat Bhushan Ashu categorically refutes media reports of Bardana shortage as malicious misinformation



Outrightly rejecting the media reports regarding non-availability of bales with procurement agencies as malicious propaganda, Bharat Bhushan Ashu, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Minister, Government of Punjab, underlined that there is no question of shortage of bardana in the mandies at all.

Tendering for Bardana procurement is a continuous process which starts much before the season as part of planning and goes on as and when the need arises. One cannot be sure of full quantity receipt through one tender only, the Minister pointed out that the last tender floated on April 12 and was necessitated only because permission from GoI to use used bags was received very late.

We have already got jute bales indented through the Jute Commissioner and NAFED, Ashu said that PP bales are also being received from various HDPE/PP bag suppliers. This, in addition to the permission to use good quality used bags already received by the state from Government of India on April 12, he pointed out hitting out at

those trying to create an issue where none exists

Pointing out that season is already in full swing with farmers bringing their crops to mandies, Ashu said that as on Tuesday, 5,44,334 MTs of wheat has already been procured in the mandies by the procurement agencies out of which 44,728 MT has been procured under DCP for distribution in the state under Smart Ration Card Scheme.

Urging all the farmers to follow all health advisories as a safeguard against COVID, the Minister said due arrangements have been made to ensure that farmers bring their produce in a staggered way as per token issued by Mandi Board Punjab so that COVID-19 protocol can be maintained in order to curb the spread of COVID-19 pan-

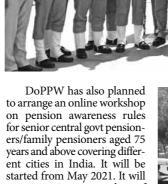
Reiterating Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh government's commitment to ensure smooth procurement experience for farmers, Ashu said that state is fully geared up to ensure our farmers don't have to face any difficulty whatsoever during the season like last four years.

PPW & NCC commemorate *Amrut Mahotsav*

Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare is commemorate 75 years of India's Independence — Bharat Ka Amrut Mahotsav. The department has start-

ed an awareness campaign entitled series of 75 important rules for family pensioners to know on social media, which was started from March, 2021. In this campaign two tweets per week are being disseminated through social media during coming year. These tweets are put in the form of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). As on April 12, 2021, five tweets have been disseminated by DoPPW on Rules for Family Pensioners to create awareness.

In another initiative, 75 offices across Ministries/Departments have been identified by DoPPW for extensive training on Bhavishya system. All these offices will be imparted training through VC followed by question-answer session to clear any doubt. Training (online pension processing module) will be across the Central Government Organisations. CAPFs offices covering different locations across country will also be covered in this regard as maximum number of cases pertain



The workshop will be conducted region wise. Besides, DoPPW will also publish a digital publication of 75 anubhav write-ups, including those already awarded. It

cities from all parts of India.

will be starting from June 2021. As part of the *Azadi Ka* Amrit Mahotsav, National Cadet Corps (NCC) also paid homage to the martyrs of the nation's freedom struggle, who



lost their lives on April 13, 1919 at the Jallianwala Bagh. National Cadet Corps also launched the pan India cam-

paign to educate people against use of 'single use plastics'. NCC has a strong cadet

who have been quite vocal about environment issues. Cadets throughout the country

gathered at 75 places. The

cadets remembered and paid gratitude to the freedom fightpatriotic songs, speeches and skits. This enthusiastic and patriotic tribute by the cadets of NCC filled the environment with patriotic fervour with many locals also joining the event. The social media was with #NCCremembersJallianwala.

The cadets gathered at these 75 locations after doing plog run and spreading the message of cleanliness and a special message to the countrymen to stop using single use plastics. The message was spread on the social media by #NCCagainstPlastic.
The National Cadet

Corps, a premier uniformed youth organisation of the country, has contributed significantly in action building nificantly in nation building since its inception. It has transformed the lives of millions of youth by shaping their character and showing them the path of unity and discipline, which is also the motto of NCC. The corps has made notable and praiseworthy contributions in spreading awareness among the masses on important issues like water conservation, environment protection, digital awareness and swachhta abhiyan.

organises tika utsav

Partaking in Prime Minister's call for Tika Utsav (National Vaccination Festival) to combat COVID-19, Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE) organised a workplace vaccination camp for employees of Public Sector Enterprises.

Sobti, DG, SCOPE; B V N Prasad, CMD, CCI, Directors and other senior officials were among those who got vaccinated at the camp.

The vaccination drive was held in coordination with Chief District Medical Officer and District Magistrate (South East), New Delhi. Earlier, SCOPE had avidly participated in Government's Public Health Response Campaign for COVID-Appropriate Behaviour.



Jammu Tourism celebrated Vaisakhi

Directorate of Tourism Jammu organised the Vaisakhi Festival at Dera Baba Banda Bahadur, Reasi, in collaboration with the District Administration, Reasi. The festival was celebrated with great fervour while fol-lowing the COVID-19 protocol

and guidelines.

Hundreds of devotees paid obeisance at the revered shrine at Dera Baba Village of Reasi, which is situated 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.

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. On this occasion, one medical camp was also organised by the District Administration Reasi and RT-PCR tests were conducted randomly. All necessary protocols which are in place were followed during the said festival.

SRH keep RCB down to 149/8

Holder takes 3/30 as Maxwell's first IPL fifty (59) since 2016 helps RCB to reach fighting total



Sunrisers Hyderabad skipper David Warner chats with his teammates during IPL game between Royal Challengers Bangalore and Sunrisers Hyderabad

PTI CHENNAI

lenn Maxwell hit a 41-ball 59 to lift Royal Challenger Bangalore to a Modest 149 for eight against Sunrisers Hyderabad in an Indian Premier League match here on SRH bowlers, led by West Indian all-

rounder Jason Holder (3/30) and star spinner Rashid Khan (2/18), put up superlative show and picked up wickets at regular intervals.

For RCB, Maxwell was the top scor-

MOST INNINGS BETWEEN TWO 50+ SCORES IN IPL

Innings	Player	Time Span
49	Yusuf Pathan	(2010-13)
48	Deepak Hooda	(2015-20)
44	Dwayne Bravo	(2009-15)
40	Glenn Maxwell	(2016-21)

er, hitting five fours and three maximums with skipper Virat Kohli (33) Shahbaz Ahmed (14) and Kyle Jamieson (12) providing valuable contributions.

Put in to bat, RCB were off to a decent start with Kohli and opener Devdutt Padikkal (11) hitting a few boundaries.

However, Sunrisers didn't have to wait long for their first breakthrough as a back of the length delivery in the third over by Bhuvneshwar Kumar (1/30) spelled the end of Padikkal, who had returned after recovering from COVID-

Shahbaz Ahmed was the next to depart after playing a quick cameo, leaving RCB at 47 for two.

Sunrisers Hyderabad all-rounder Jason Holder celebrates wicket of Glenn Maxwell

THE LAST TIME ROYAL

CHALLENGERS BANGALORE SUCCESSFULLY **DEFENDED A TARGET UNDER 155 WAS IN** APRIL 2009 WHEN THEY DEFENDED 145 AGAINST KXIP IN **DURBAN IN 2009**

At the halfway mark, Maxwell raised the tempo as the big-hitting Australian smashed Shahbaz Nadeem (1/36) for two sixes and a four in the first three balls of the 11th over, with Kohli joining the party with a boundary.

The two stitched a 44-run partnership before Jason Holder got rid of the

"As a spinner, you'd love such tracks, it's slow and there's a bit of bounce, but you need to be accurate with the line and length. If you back up your strengths, you can perform on this surface"

-RASHID KHAN

RCB skipper as wickets continued to fall at regular intervals.

With AB de Villiers in the middle, SRH captain David Warner introduced spin once again, bringing on versatile legspinner Rashid, and the move immediately paid dividends. The dangerous South African slapped the ball straight to Warner at covers with the slow nature of the Chepauk track coming to the fore once again.

The Afghan spinner struck once again, getting rid of Washinton Sundar (8). With Dan Christian also gone, Maxwell smashed three fours and a maximum in the last three overs.

PLAYER

1. Nitish Rana (KKR) 137 2. Sanju Samson (RR) 119 3. Glenn Maxwell (RCB)



PLAYER 1. Andre Russell (KKR) 6 5

RUNS

2. Harshal Patel (RCB) 3. Rashid Khan (SRH)

MOST SIXES 1. Sanju Samson (RR) 6 2. Deepak Hooda (PBKS)

3. Nitish Rana (KKR)

MOTION PICTURE

SUMMER SLAM



Chennai Super Kings players Narayan Jagadeesan, R Sai Kishore, Suresh Raina and C Hari Nishaanth don traditional dress on occasion of Tamil New Year

KOHLI FLOATED IDEA OF MAXI JOINING RCB

All-rounder Glenn Maxwell said that RCB captain Virat Kohli had first floated the idea of him joining the franchise during the India's limited overs leg of Australia last year. "We chatted after the ODI and T201 series in Australia. He talked to me about potentially playing for RCB. If I got the opportunity, he said 'we would love to have you'," Maxwell said in a video tweeted by RCB. "He floated the idea back even then. There was a long process in work. Thankfully, I am playing for RCB now," he added.

PANT WILL DO A GOOD JOB: LARA Brian Lara believes Rishabh Pant has improved a lot in

the last few months and will do a good job in leading Delhi Capitals. "I think he has got a team that will support him which is most important. He has grown in the last 4 months and I think he will do a good job.

Injured Royals look to bounce back PSG knock

Shaw is in good form recently

and his aggressive batting in the

PRITHVI SHAW

KEY PLAYERS

powerplay overs set the tone JOS BUTTLER



In Jofra Archer and Ben Stokes' absence, Jos is now the most experienced player in the team

PTI MUMBAI

oming off a heart-breaking loss in the first match and hit by star all-rounder Ben Stokes' injury-forced ouster, a beleaguered Rajasthan Royals would hope for another inspirational knock from new skipper Sanju Samson when it faces a confident Delhi Capitals in an IPL match at Wankhede Stadium on Wednesday. While DC made a superb start under new

captain Rishabh Pant, clinching a seven-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings in their opening contest, RR suffered a four-run defeat against Punjab Kings in a high-scoring match on Monday night.

As if the loss was not enough, RR were dealt a severe blow on Tuesday when Stokes was ruled out of the remainder of the tournament with a broken finger. He sustained that injury during the agonising defeat.

In his absence, the pressure would be on the likes of Jos Buttler, Shivam Dube and Riyan Parag to deliver the goods and provide ample support to their young skipper, who has been sensational in the first match.



team management would be the performance of its bowling RR bowling unit looked rusty and completely out of

sorts in their opener. Barring young Chetan Sakariya (3/31), who had a fantastic debut, all other RR bowlers went for runs and looked completely clueless against opposition bats-

> Mustafizur Rahman, Chris Morris, Stokes, Shreyas Gopal, Rahul Tewatia all went for big runs and need to pull up

VENUE: WANKHEDE STADIUM, MUMBAI **HEAD TO HEAD** Matches

Rajasthan Royals Delhi Capitals

LAST YEAR'S MATCHES

Delhi Capitals beat Rajasthan Royals by 46 runs in Sharjah Delhi Capitals defeated

Rajasthan Royals by 13 runs in Dubai



Sanju Samson who smashed 95 sixes in 76 innings of 80 matches, needs just five sixes to become the second Rajasthan Royals batsman after Shane Watson (109 sixes in 78 matches) to complete a century of sixes in Indian Premier League



Rishabh Pant led Delhi Capitals to a seven-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings on captaincy debut in IPL. He led Delhi Capitals for the first time after playing 68 matches

Faisel Features

their socks quickly.

Last edition's runner-up side DC, on the other hand, had a perfect start to their campaign as they defeated three-time champions CSK with consummate ease

Opting to field, DC had allowed CSK to pile up a competitive 188 for 7 but Shikhar Dhawan and Prithvi Shaw made a short walk of the target with a 138-run opening partnership, that laid the foundation for the win

On the bowling front, Chris Woakes (2/18) and Avesh Khan $(2\overline{/}23)$ had a good outing in the first game and would look to carry on their form but the likes of Ravichandran Ashwin, Tom Curran, Amit Mishra and Stoinis had a forgettable outing and would be desperate to make amends on Thursday.

The contest will also witness test of wits of two new captains in Pant and Samson.

holders Bayern Out



Paris Saint-Germain knocked holders Bayern Munich out of the Champions League on Tuesday despite Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting scoring against his old club as a 1-0 defeat in the second leg at the Parc des Princes could not prevent the French giants from winning a tremendous quarter-final tie on away goals.

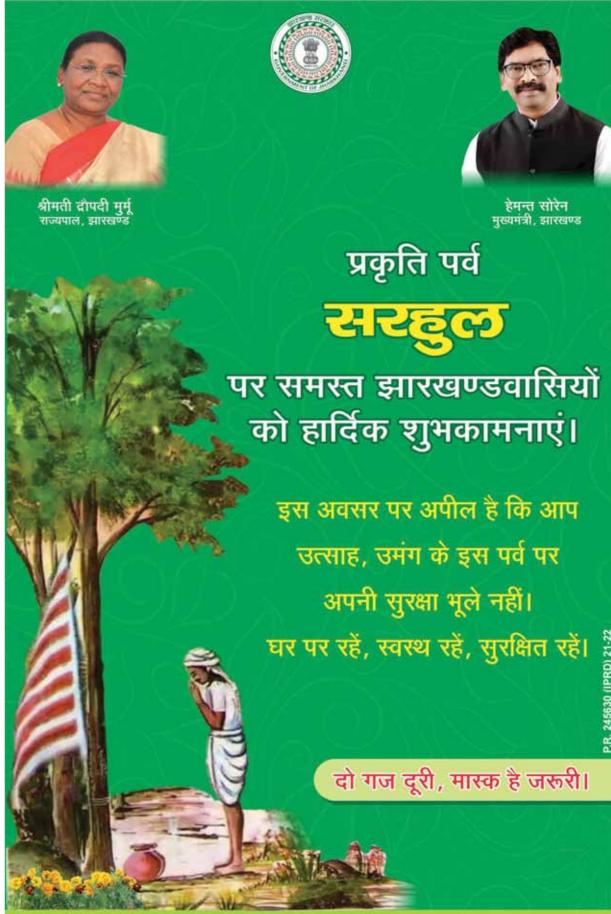
Neymar twice hit the woodwork for PSG in the first half and Choupo-Moting then put Bayern in front five minutes before the break.

But the reigning European champions could not get the second goal they needed after losing 3-2 at home in the first leg last week.

PSG have revenge following their 1-0 defeat in last season's final in Lisbon, and the dream of winning a first European Cup remains alive for the Qatarowned club. Mauricio Pochettino's team, who had already eliminated Barcelona in the last 16, can now look forward to a semi-final against Manchester City or Borussia Dortmund. "I am delighted, despite the defeat. We were facing a great team, the European champions, but we are going back to the semi-finals," Neymar told broadcaster RMC Sport.

CHELSEA ADVANCE

SEVILLE: Chelsea reached the Champions League semi-finals for the first time since 2014 despite a 1-0 defeat against Porto in Tuesday's quarter-final second leg in Seville. Thomas Tuchel's side will play Real Madrid or Liverpool for a place in the final after producing a masterclass in game management to win 2-1 on aggregate.



सूचना एवं जनसंपर्क विभाग, झारखण्ड सरकार