

UPROAR IN STATE ASSEMBLY

Opp walks out on issue of rising fuel prices

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The State Assembly on Wednesday witnessed uproarious scenes over the issue of rising fuel prices, as Opposition Congress MLAs were demanding a debate on surging price rise in fuel. Later, the Opposition members staged a walkout.

During the zero hour, Congress MLAs started demanding for a discussion on the steep price appreciation witnessed in petrol and diesel. However, the ruling BJP did not agree to it. As the stalemate continued, the Congress MLAs staged a walk out of the House and staged dharna in front of Mahatma Gandhi statue inside assembly campus.

Leader of Opposition Kamal Nath said that the government should have a discussion on growing prices of petrol and diesel but the Shivraj government was trying to shy away from this. He affirmed that Congress agitation will continue on streets on fuel price hike.

PC Sharma, the former



Congress MLAs stage a protest in the State Assembly over a hike in fuel price, during the Budget Session, in Bhopal on Wednesday

Congress minister claimed that the BJP government was trying to suppress opposition by exhibiting Covid19 fear. To add, the district crisis management group meeting held on Tuesday has banned all sorts of agitation and protests in the city in the wake of Covid19 surge.

Sharma stated that Congress party will continue with March 3 gherao of assembly and the fuel price hike issue

will also be raised inside the assembly as well. With a daily price surge in last fortnight or so, petrol is selling at 98.92 a litre in Bhopal while the diesel price has surged to Rs 89.21 per litre.

Congress party has been carrying out protests against the fuel price hike in the recent past. After a long gap, the MP assembly has convened a session and budget session is underway presently.

Min instructs to strictly follow new lift safety provisions

Amendment in the Land Development Rules, 2012 made

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The State Government has made an amendment in the provisions of the Land Development Rules, 2012 on September 28, 2020 for the safety of the common man. Necessary provisions have been made regarding the operation, maintenance and safety of lifts. Urban Development and Housing Minister Bhupendra Singh has given instructions to strictly follow these provisions.

Building owners will have to apply in the prescribed form to the local urban body for installation of lifts. Clear details of the capacity, measurement and number of elevators must be given in the form. The building owner will have to get the lift insured with the persons using the lift from a recognized institution. The building owner has to follow the instructions for maintenance given by the lift engineer after installation.

Unsafe lifts will not be used by the building owners for which the building owner will be held fully responsible. If the

COMMISSIONERS OR CHIEF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS OF THE RESPECTIVE URBAN BODIES WILL BE THE CONCERNED LIFT AUTHORITY. EACH LIFT AUTHORITY SHALL MAINTAIN A PHYSICAL AND ELECTRONIC LIST OF ALL LIFTS IN THE PRESCRIBED FORM

lift is not in use, the building owner will completely disconnect power supply to it and securely close all doors so that accidental entry can be prevented. Operation and maintenance will be done by the building owner as per the provisions made in the National Building Code.

The building owner shall submit a six monthly periodic safety and audit report duly signed from the lift engineer to the authority concerned. Only individual building owners will be exempted from this. If the building owner fails to follow the provisions mentioned, then the operation of the lift will be stopped by the competent authority. In the event of any accident, the building owner

will give full details of the accident to the concerned authority within 24 hours.

Commissioners or Chief Municipal Officers of the respective urban bodies will be the concerned Lift Authority. Each Lift Authority shall maintain a physical and electronic list of all lifts in the prescribed form. The owner of such places in which the lift is already installed, will also have to inform the authority with the prescribed fee in the prescribed form. The authority will maintain it in the above list. The competent authority will be able to stop the operation of the lift in case of negligence and error in lift operation.

Apollo Tubes unveils India's first closed steel door, window frames

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

APL Apollo Tubes Limited (APL Apollo), one of the leading brand of steel tubes manufacturers, has unveiled India's first closed steel door and window frames 'Apollo Chaukhat', based on trusted and dependable Italian technology. Emerging as a perfect choice for doors and windows, 'Apollo Chaukhat' is a class apart in its segment. It is synonymous with strength, durability and world-class quality.

For the consumers who have been traditionally using wooden frames for doors and windows, 'Apollo Chaukhat' is loaded with inherent advantages. It is termite proof, fire resistant and rigid whereas even the expensive wooden frames remain prone to termites and are inflammable, expansion and contraction happen in wooden frames due to changes in weather. 'Apollo Chaukhat', made of high quality steel, is easy to fit, environment friendly and recyclable. The product also shields the house from dust and bugs,

Apollo Chaukhat, made of high quality steel, is easy to fit, environment friendly and recyclable. The product also shields the house from dust and bugs

and can be easily customized according to the consumers' requirements.

Another reason to choose "Apollo Chaukhat" is its quick installation process which involves effortless ease. While installation of wooden frames is like accomplishing a challenging task with concrete and cement, "Apollo Chaukhat", on the other hand can be fitted instantly even post-construction, in just a few simple steps, like any modern PLUG & PLAY.

Webinar held on International Mother Language Day

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the occasion of "International Mother Language Day, a webinar was held on Wednesday through Zoom meetings.

The webinar was organised by Rabindranath Tagore University, Faculty of Humanities and Liberal Arts, Language Learning Center and Madhya Pradesh Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti Hindi Bhawan, Bhopal.

Keynote speaker Jawahar Karnavat, senior litterateur and director, Madhya Pradesh Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samiti Hindi Bhawan, Bhopal, while expressing his constructive views on the topic "Global scenario of mother tongues and employment prospects", said that the world has developed Mother tongues have played a special role in the development of countries.

He further said that 20 rich and high-level GDP countries of the world work in their mother tongues. He is deeply attached to his mother tongues. At the same time, twenty countries with the world's lowest GDP depend on foreign languages. In the present times

technology has paved a very positive path for mother tongues globally. The youth should imbibe their mother tongues. With this, the conservation and development of our mother tongue will also be possible.

The mother tongue contains immense possibilities of employment. In this direction, the youth will have to observe and analyze the global scenario of their mother tongues.

Conducting a successful creative thought-provoking programme, young critic Arunesh Shukla said that International Mother Language Day is observed on 21 February. In the year 1952, students of Dhaka University agitated and struggled for their mother tongue Bangla. Many young people were martyred. International Mother Language Day is celebrated commemorating the sacrifices and struggles of the same youth.

Sangeeta Johri, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Liberal Arts, Rabindranath Tagore University, Bhopal, threw light on the forthcoming programs, expressing views on the creative work of various centers set up under the faculty.



Madhya Pradesh State Congress president Kamal Nath during a State level meeting of Mahila Congress workers at PCC headquarters in Bhopal on Wednesday

MPSD to perform 2 Sanskrit plays today at Sanskrit Bhavan

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

The students of Madhya Pradesh School of Drama (MPSD) are all set to present the Sanskrit plays before the Bhopalites. It will be one of a kind of performance by the batch of 2020-21.

A collage of two plays Abhigyan Shakuntalam and Madhyam Vyayog will be presented on Thursday at Sanskrit Bhavan under class presentation. As the MPSD students learn something new throughout the session, this time they

will be presenting the 'collage of sanskrit plays' on Thursday.

Ramji Bali, a theatre artist and playwright from Banaras is here to teach the students of MPSD about the Sanskrit plays. The special lectures by Ramji Bali began with the students of batch 2020-21. The final rehearsals for the play were held here on Wednesday with a lot of enthusiasm.

During the entire workshop, the students were taught about the stories and how to present the character on stage with efficiency. Not only this,

but during the workshop, the students were given information on different dance forms. The final rehearsals of the play were held with a lot of enthusiasm at MPSD.

Abhigyan Shakuntalam is based on Kalidasa's epic poem Abhigyan Shakuntalam where-in Shakuntala urges and waits for her true love to return. Madhyama Vyayoga is a Sanskrit play by Bhasa, focuses on the name confusion between the priest Keshav Das's middle son and the middle Pandava prince Bhima.

Woman, who was injured in fire at home on Feb 22, succumbs

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

A 30-year-old woman, who had sustained burn injuries on February 22, succumbed to injuries while undergoing treatment at hospital on Tuesday; deceased got injured at her house near Narmada Bhawan TT Nagar police station area.

According to the police, the deceased Uma Wamane sustained burn injuries at her house and was rushed to a nearby hospital and later she died on Tuesday.

In the initial investigation it was found that the deceased sustained burn injuries after her clothes caught fire while cooking. After the preliminary investigation the body was sent for the post mortem and a case under section 174 of the CrPC was registered.

The reason of the fire could not be ascertained and would be investigated. The family was present and when she sustained burn injuries they rushed to her rescue. She was taken to hospital and the injured where she died during the treatment. Police said that the deceased died to burn injuries and would be investigated.

Meanwhile, a 27-year-old man committed suicide by hanging with the ceiling at his house in Shree Homes under Bairagarh police station area on Tuesday.

Police said that the deceased Lucky Sewakarmani committed suicide at his house. In the initial investigation the family members told police that deceased used to remain depressed.

In the night on Tuesday he was found hanging with the ceiling. Body was sent for the post mortem after the preliminary investigation. The police have registered a case under section 174 of the CrPC and started further investigation.

Duping NEET students by promising MBBS seat: Gang of 3 busted

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Cyber-crime branch Bhopal have busted a three member gang, including a girl from Pune, in Indore involved in duping victims in the name of facilitating admission on MBBS seat to NEET participants; gang duped numerous victims and amount would be over Rs 1 crore.

The accused identified as Arvind Kumar alias Anand Rao, Rakesh Kumar Pawar and a girl. Accused were tracked and nabbed after a victim lodged complaint after been duped.

The victim stated that money was deposited in 2 different bank accounts after meeting with the accused in MP Nagar Bhopal but never helped in the securing the seat. Based on the details accused were tracked in Pune and Indore.

Accused revealed modus operandi that victims were trapped using data of NEET students which they have bought and made fake website www.neetcounselling.com. The main accused Arvind would run the company, Ramesh would operate call centre and manage it while the girl would meet in person to assure and lure the victims.

After that, students were asked to visit the website of by bulk message and phone where three types of service of 50000, 25000 and 5000 rupees were given by the accused. Out of which, in the service of 50000 rupees, students were given the excuse of providing MBBS seats and in various cities like Bhopal, Indore, Bangalore and Pune etc., students were called for counselling and deposited 50000 rupees and thereafter by the accused would never contact.

Police have recovered 5 computers, 12 laptops, 27 mobile phones, 13 ATM cards, 1 passport, 2 bank cheque books and other documents used in the case have been seized.

15th Bhopal Rang Mahotsav

Play Haseena Maan Jayegi? staged at Shaheed Bhavan



A scene from the play 'Haseena Maan Jayegi' staged at Shaheed Bhawan in Bhopal on Wednesday

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

On the first day of 15th Bhopal Rang Mahotsav, play 'Haseena Maan Jayegi?' was staged at Shaheed Bhavan on Wednesday.

The play is written and directed by Sanjay Mehta. The play was performed by the artists of Rang Sheers Theatre Troupe.

The play begins with Baban Khan, a stingy and selfish man. He takes care of a girl named Roshni and tries to get married to Roshni. On the other side Nawab Alampur is also crazy behind Roshni and he also wants to marry Roshni.

Slowly, Roshni also starts falling in love with Nawab. When Baban comes to know

about this, he abducts Roshni. Despite a lot of trials Roshni was unable to get free from his abduction. Nawab with the help of Fakhr helps Roshni and frees her.

At the end Nawab managed to marry her.

The play was performed brilliantly by the artists on stage, leaving the audience mesmerised.

Folk dance, music performed at Tribal Museum

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Folk dance and music was performed on Wednesday at Madhya Pradesh State Tribal Museum.

Ganesha Gurjar and group, Khandwa Dara performed the 'verse of Nimari saints' and Baiga tribal dance 'Karama' was performed by Devi Singh and Sathi Dindori.

Ganesh Gurjar and group started performing with Ganesh Vandana - Ganapati's Laga Paya and it was followed by birth in Khajuri, guru ghar chakar raga, Sidhi Bane Padgundi Guruji, Dulav Vanya Ray Maharaj, Obey Ray Bachan Hamaro, Guru Mukh Govind and Guru.

He was accompanied on Harmonium by Sivaram Thakur, on tabla by Dhannal Daksay, on chorus, by Tarachand Khede, on Dholak by Krishna Kumar Dongre and on Jhanj by Devidas Shriwas.

Gurjar started singing in the rural environment since childhood, you have been per-

Ganesh Gurjar and group started performing with Ganesh Vandana - Ganapati's Laga Paya

forming on many prestigious forums in the country for the last twenty years.

The second performance was Baiga tribal dance 'Karama' by Devi Singh and colleagues.

According to the tradition of Baiga Tribal, on the fourth day of the tariff of the month of Bhadon, people worship their respective Ishta Dev, the total deities and eat them. From the same day, Karma performs dance and song.

This dance-song continues till Shukla Paksha i.e. Bidri Puja of Jyestha month. In it, mandar, timki and flute are the main musical instruments. Men-Jhaga dances with kurta, jackets, fenta, peacock crested in the head and slapping in the hands. Women- Mungi sari, blouse, Biranmala, Morpunch Kalgi dance feet with feet, garland and neck in neck and slit in hand.

Performance on Akhada martial arts organised by ICCR

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Earlier, the martial arts seemed as an activity, but now its forms are performed on stage. A spontaneous performance of Akhada Martial Arts left the Bhopalites totally mesmerised on Wednesday. The performance was held at Regional Science Centre auditorium by renowned Akhada artist Bhagwandas Raikwar.

It is to be noted that the event was organised by the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) under horizon series.

There were interesting performances by 18 artists on poles, fencing and various poses. The dress and the beat of the drum was transmitting energy in the audience. The eye-catching performance was the human pyramid and dhera performance. The audience were smitten with this energetic performance.

The Akhada martial arts, survived since ancient times, are still keeping the art effective through their presentation. The Akhada martial arts team has so far trained more than 15 thousand children. In the program,



Artists from Sagar, Madhya Pradesh exhibit their skills at an event 'Akhada Martial Arts' under horizon series programme organised by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) at Regional Science Centre in Bhopal on Wednesday

lathi war, spinning of sticks in different posture, sword walking, shield attack, all these were successful performances by artists on martial arts.

The director of the martial arts 'akhada', Bhagwandas Raikwar, has kept the tradition of the arena (arms war) alive. He

established Chhatrasal Bundelkhand Akhada in 1960 with the aim of keeping the Akhada tradition alive and expanding and preserving its art not only in the country but also abroad. This akhada performance is also listed in the ICCR.

Govt OK’s ₹7,350 cr for making of desi gadgets

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved a ₹7,350-crore scheme to boost production of laptops, tablets, all-in-one PCs and servers in the country, as it sought to woo global and domestic players to take advantage of India’s manufacturing prowess.

Production worth ₹3.26 lakh crore and exports of ₹2.45 lakh crore are estimated over the next four years under the new scheme, which is expected to create 1.80 lakh jobs, said Communications and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad.

Briefing reporters after a meeting of the Cabinet, Prasad said the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme has been approved for IT hardware products that would cover lap-



tops, tablets, all-in-one PCs and servers. The ₹7,350-crore scheme aims to promote India as a global hub for hardware manufacturing. The PLI push for hi-tech IT hardware gadgets comes close on the heels of the Cabinet last week clearing a ₹12,195 crore scheme for telecom equipment manufacturing, he said.

An incentive scheme for mobile phone manufacturing was announced last year and

has since garnered strong response from players despite the challenging times of the pandemic. The latest IT hardware scheme offers incentives between 4-1 per cent on net incremental sales (over base year 2019-20) of goods manufactured in India and covered under the target segment, to eligible companies, for a period of four years, an official statement said.

The PLI scheme is expected to enhance the development of electronics ecosystem in India, at a time when globally manufacturing is undergoing a shift and companies across the world are looking to diversify their manufacturing locations to mitigate the risk involved in depending on a single market, said Prasad detailing the PLI scheme.

ED holds raids in ₹605 crore bank fraud case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Wednesday said it has conducted searches in a money laundering case at various premises of accused Amar Chand Gupta, Ram Laal Gupta, Raj Kumar Gupta and other family members allegedly involved in siphoning and diversion of loan funds amounting to ₹605 crore by Shree Bankey Bihari Exports Limited (SBBEL).

The ED had initiated investigation under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) on the basis of an FIR registered by CBI against SBBEL, its Directors Amar Chand Gupta and others and other unknown public servants/persons for a fraud of ₹605 crore.

“During investigation, it was gathered that SBBEL had diverted the loan funds

through its sister units and also by employing the modus operandi of showing bogus and fictitious sale/purchase transactions. The primary security had also been disposed without depositing the sale proceeds in the loan account,” the ED said in a statement.

It was also gathered that the books of accounts had been secreted in various premises wherein business was being carried out by these accused persons Amar Chand Gupta, Ram Laal Gupta and Raj Kumar Gupta in the name of other family members. In order to uncover the trail of proceeds of crime and to recover documentary and electronic evidence, searches at residential and business premises of the directors and the entities being run by them along with residence of one key employee were conducted, it said.

Congress attacks BJP for renaming Motera stadium

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Soon after President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the world’s largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad, which will now be known as ‘Narendra Modi stadium’, the Congress hit out at the BJP with its former chief Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday again invoking his ‘Hum do humare do’ jibe, claiming that truth was out with the stadium having the Prime Minister’s name, two ends being named after corporate houses and Home Minister Amit Shah’s son being involved in cricket administration. But the Government said the name change involves only the Motera stadium and the entire sports complex continues to be named after Sardar Patel.

“Beautiful how the truth reveals itself. Narendra Modi stadium — Adani end — Reliance end. With Jay Shah presiding,” Rahul Gandhi tweeted, with the hashtag ‘HumDoHumareDo’.

SSB’S 2-DAY NATIONAL SEMINAR BEGINS

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) is organising a two-day 2nd National Police K9 Seminar on sniffer dogs beginning on Thursday.

The K-9 seminar will provide a platform to all the participants to interact with spe-



cialists on K-9 training in the country and discuss topics related to the latest approach on K-9 training. The seminar shall go a long way in developing effective strategies for utilisation of sniffer dogs in national security,” the SSB said in a statement.

Foodgrain output to touch new record of 303.34 million tonnes in 2020-21

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

Riding high on bumper rice and wheat output due to good monsoon rains and using good quality seeds, India’s food-grain production for 2020-21 crop year is estimated at 303.34 million tonnes — an all-time record. It is estimated to be 5.84 million tonnes higher than the output in 2019-20 which stood at 296.50 million tons. This will be the fifth consecutive year of record production, propelled by record production of rice, wheat, pulses and cereals.

As per the second advance

estimate released by the Ministry of agriculture, production of both paddy and wheat is estimated to touch a new high of 120.32 million tonnes (118.87 million tons during the fourth advance estimate 2019-20) and 109.24 million tonnes (107.86 million tons), respectively, in 2020-21 a record high.

The projection of record production is significant amid the Covid-19 pandemic and farmers’ agitation. Punjab, which has been the nerve centre of farmers’ protest, has seen record procurement of rice at 13.58 million tonnes, which is 24 per cent

more than last year.

Pulses production, too, is slated to get a slight boost to 24.42 million tons nearly 1.4 million tons more than the previous year, mainly because of a record gram production which is expected to be around 11.62 million tons.

Total oilseed production during 2020-21 is estimated at 37.31 million tons which is 4.09 million tons more than the production of 33.22 million tons during 2019-20. The higher oilseed output is on account of higher yields expected in all three major oilseed crops —

groundnut, mustard and soyabean. The production of maize is also expected to be a record one at 30.16 million tons. Aided by a record maize production, total output of coarse cereals in 2020-21 is expected to go up to 49.36 million tons, which is nearly 1.6 million tons more than that in the previous year. Cotton production is estimated at 36.54 million bales (of 170 kg each), which is nearly half a million bales more than last year.

Similarly, sugarcane output is expected to be around 397.66 million tons which is substantially higher than the previous

year’s 370.5 million tons.

“After achieving self-sufficiency in pulses, our focus is on raising oilseeds output to reduce dependence on edible oil imports. This year, we are likely to cross 34 million tonnes as against last year’s fourth advance estimate of 33.4 million tonnes. The production of oilseeds will go up in subsequent years,” the official said.

“There has been no impact of pandemic and farmers’ agitation in farm activities so far in the country. Farmers in Punjab actively participated in the procurement exercise and planted

wheat across areas at last year’s level,” the official said.

The year-on-year record production has resulted in a surge in farm exports, which rose 25% to ₹1.02 lakh crore in the first three quarters of fiscal 2020-21.

The Union Government bought a record 658.61 lakh tons of kharif (monsoon crops) paddy in its ongoing procurement operations, 16.56 percent more than it did last year. Nearly 95.23 lakh farmers have been paid minimum support prices worth ₹1.24 lakh crore for these purchases, the data show.

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

BJP president JP Nadda and Union Ministers Prakash Javadekar, Smriti Irani and RK Singh on Wednesday hit out at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his north and south politics remark, alleging that insulting Indians was a favourite pastime of his.

“Insulting Indians is a favourite pastime of Rahul Gandhi. Indians are not superficial you are Mr Rahul Gandhi,” tweeted Javadekar.

Senior BJP leaders slamming responses came a day after Rahul’s statement where he said that Kerala was a refreshing experience for him after 15 years as an MP in the north.

Similar tweets were made by BJP president. “A few days back he was in the Northeast, spewing venom against the western part of India. Today in the South he is spewing venom against the North. Divide and rule politics won’t work, Rahul Gandhi Ji! People have rejected this politics. See what happened in Gujarat today!”, said Nadda.

After Congress justified Rahul’s remarks. Irani said that she completely agrees with Environment Minister Javadekar’s statement that “insulting India and its citizens is the favourite pastime of Rahul Gandhi.”

Speaking to television



channels, Irani said that this is not the first time that the Congress leader has said something against the country and its people.

The Union Minister said, “A neta’s job is to keep the whole country united and think for the interest of the country and its people, despite his/her own political indifference.”

Taking a dig at the Wayanad (Kerala) MP whom she had defeated in the 2019 Amethi Lok Sabha election, Smriti Irani alleged, “Rahul Gandhi is the same person who on Republic Day had voiced his opinion in favour of country’s division during tractor rally violence.”

She also claimed that earlier, Rahul had also questioned the Indian Army on how it had attacked its enemy-nation Pakistan.

The Minister said, “My only question is that is Rahul

Gandhi has so much hatred for India and its people then why is he engaging in country’s politics and pretending that he is always wishing for India’s best interests”.

She alleged that the Congress leader was creating “divisions” while a leader should be uniting the country

Union Minister and Lok Sabha MP from Bihar’s Arrah constituency RK Singh said “Rahul Gandhi is talking about North and South, but if you do not work in any Constituency then you will be defeated. This is what happened to you in Amethi (Uttar Pradesh). You did not work, that’s why the public voted out. Even if you do not work in Kerala the public will vote out.”

“You think that if you keep winning from one constituency to another constituency, then it is not going to last long, you have to work, having been MP three times in a Constituency you lost the election because you did not do any developmental work. Do not divide people into North and South. People (of Kerala) are from India and if you do not work, then you will be voted out from here also,” he said.

Rahul’s ignorance about the presence of Fisheries Ministry had earlier in the weekmade him a subject of criticism from the BJP leaders.

No extra chance in UPSC exam to those who exhausted last attempt amid pandemic: SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea seeking an extra chance for UPSC civil services exam aspirants who exhausted their last attempt in October 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

A bench headed by Justices A M Khanwilkar said that it was dismissing the plea filed by a civil services aspirant for the extra chance citing difficulties faced in preparations during the pandemic.

The Centre informed the top court on February 9 that it is against granting one-time relaxation on age limit to UPSC civil service aspirants, including those who had exhausted their last attempt in the 2020 exam amid the Covid-19 pandemic, as it would be discriminatory to other candidates.

The candidates from general category are allowed six attempts for the UPSC civil services exam till the age of 32; the

OBC, nine attempts till 35 years and the SC/ST candidates unlimited attempts till they turn 37.

The Centre was initially not willing to give an extra chance to the candidates but it had later agreed to do so at the suggestion of the bench.

It had on February 5 told the apex court that it was agreeable to giving an extra chance as a one-time relaxation to those civil service aspirants who had appeared in their last attempt in the 2020 exam and are not age-barred.

However, the bench on Wednesday dismissed the petition of Rachna and others.

The Centre had earlier furnished a chart in the apex court giving details of relaxation given by Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) in civil services exams since its inception and had said that in 1979, 1992 and 2015 relaxations were given to the candidates due to change in patterns of the examination.

Disengagement a win-win situation, says Army chief

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India and China are regularly holding talks to defuse tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Army Chief General MM Naravane said here on Wednesday the country has shown resolve.

He also said “nobody wants an unsettled border” and favoured resumption of all engagements with China.

In an apparent reference to the recent pull back of troops by both the armies from the Pangong Tso(lake), the Army Chief said the whole of the government approach ensured that India’s interests were safe. He also said “our relations with China would develop along the path that we wish to develop.”

Referring to the disengagement from the Pangong, he said it saw a good result and termed it as a win-win situation. However, there is still a long way to go, Naravane said adding China has been in the habit of making small incremental moves like in South China Sea which were not

North-South divide a toolkit by BJP: Cong

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With its former chief Rahul Gandhi coming under attack of the BJP over his comments in Kerala, the Congress on Wednesday sought to defend him saying the Wayanad MP had given a clarion call to the people to question the Government on real issues and the North-South divide was a “toolkit” being sold by the BJP to the public.

However, while former Union Minister Kapil Sibal said he was nobody to comment on what Rahul Gandhi has but still maintained “we must respect electors in the country and not denigrate their wisdom”, another former Minister Anand Sharma said only Rahul can clarify so that there’s no conjecture or misunderstanding.

The Congress alleged that the BJP was raising “superficial” issues on a daily basis to divert the country’s attention from the people’s issues. Several BJP leaders and union ministers accused Rahul Gandhi of being an ‘opportunist’ and alleged that he

belittled north Indians during the speech delivered in Kerala.

Addressing a public gathering in Thiruvananthapuram, Rahul had said, “For the first 15 years, I was an MP in the north. I had got used to a different type of politics. For me, coming to Kerala was very refreshing as suddenly I found that people are interested in issues and not just superficially but going into detail in issues.”

Referring to Rahul Gandhi’s remarks, AICC chief spokesman Randeep Surjewala clarified that the former Congress president has given a clarion call to the people to question the government of the day, whether in the states or at the Centre, on issues paramount to people and to “ignore the superficial toolkit story being sold by the BJP day in and day out.”


“The North-South divide is a toolkit being adopted and sold by the BJP to the news channels and the public. Let us all rise and ensure that the governments of the day answer on issues and not on superficiality that they want to divert our attention to,” Surjewala said at AICC Press conference.

₹1.15L cr transferred to 10.75 cr farmers under PM-Kisan scheme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Modi Government on Wednesday said it has transferred over ₹1.15 lakh crore directly to bank accounts of more than 10.75 crore farmers under the PM-KISAN scheme and asked states to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries are covered in this flagship programme.

Addressing a function on the occasion of the second anniversary of the PM-KISAN, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the Government has enhanced the income of farmers by providing ₹6,000 annually to farmers under this scheme in three equal instalments.


GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL HOSPITAL AND CENTRAL HEATING DIVISION SRINAGAR
Telefax :- 0194-2496089, Email Id:- xenmhchdk@yahoo.in
(Short-term)
e -NIT NO: MHCHD/TS /2020-21/299/e-tendering Dated:-23.02.2021

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited from Authorized dealers of approved makes of Split ACs or Registered/ Reputed and experienced firms for the below mentioned work:-
Name of Work:- Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Air Conditioning Units for CT Scan Room at Govt. SMHS Hospital, Srinagar.
Est. Cost (Rs. in Lacs) :- 2.32
Cost of T/Doc. (In rupees) :- 200
Time of completion (in days) :- 05
AAA/Position on of Funds :- MC/Plan/Mech/Auth/5091-95, Dated: 18-01-2021
TS. NO :- 107 of 02/2021
1. The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in from **23.02.2021(18.00 hrs)**.
2. The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above web site from **24.02.2021 (10:00hrs) to 03.03.2021 (14:00 hrs)** in two (02) cover.
3. The bids uploaded on the website up to due date and time will be opened on **04.03.2021 (14.00 hrs)** or any date convenient to the department in the **office of Executive Engineer, MHCHD, Srinagar.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
MHCHD, Srinagar

No. DIPK-13810/20 Dated:- 24.02.2021

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM					
SR. No.	NAME OF department	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	IRRIGATION & W/R DEPARTMENT HARYANA PANCHKULA	NO 288/6-A DATED 03.02.2021 & NO 401/6-A DATED 12.02.2021	DATE OF TENDERS INVITED VIDE THIS OFFICE NIT NO. 288/6-A DATED 03.02.2021 AND NO. 401/6-A DATED 12.02.2021 ARE HEREBY POSTPONED. NOW THE LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF ONLINE BIDS IS FIXED 27.02.2021 UPTO 15:00 HRS. , LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF PHYSICAL BIDS IS FIXED 01.03.2021 UPTO 14:00 HRS AND DATE OF OPENING OF TENDER IS FIXED 01.03.2021 AT 15:00 HRS. ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITION SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED. FOR ANY QUERY CONTACT IN THE OFFICE OF UNDERSIGNED.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274256466 xenmech@yahoo.com
2	IRRIGATION & W/R DEPARTMENT HARYANA REWARI	288/6-A DATED 03.02.2021	TENDERS INVITED FOR 15 NO. WORKS (I.E. SR. NO. 1 TO 15) VIDE THIS OFFICE NIT NO. 288/6-A DATED 03.02.2021. NAME OF WORK AT SR. NO. 12 MAY PLEASE BE READ AS "REPAIRING OF 1 NO. 125 CS PUMP (P-20) WILDO MAKE AT PUMP HOUSE JF-1" INSTEAD OF "REPAIRING OF 1 NO. 150 CS PUMP (P-20) WILDO MAKE AT PUMP HOUSE JF-1". ALL OTHER TERMS AND CONDITION SHALL REMAIN UNCHANGED. FOR ANY QUERY CONTACT IN THE OFFICE OF UNDERSIGNED	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01274256466 xenmech@yahoo.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO 1932

GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA CORRIGENDUM					
SR. No.	NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH	OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO.	NATURE OF CORRIGENDUM	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	SHRI MATA MANSA DEVI SHRINE BOARD, PANCHKULA	NO.5MMD58/ESTT/7021 /164 DATED 08.02.2021	E-TENDER HAS BEEN INVITED AND UPLOADED FOR ABOVE MENTIONED SUBJECT ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.MANSADEVI.ORG.IN ON 10.02.21. THE CLOSING DATE OF WHICH IS 22.02.21 HAS NOW BEEN EXTENDED UPTO 01.03.2021 (5.00 PM) DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE GROUND. SOME AMENDMENTS IN DNIT HAS BEEN UPLOADED 20.02.21 AND 22.02.21.	http://mansadevi.org.in	http://mansadevi.org.in
2	HVPNL	NIT NO. 15 (EPC-D-15/PD&C) DATED 04.01.2021	EXTENSION IN DATE OF ONLINE SUBMISSION OF BIDS UP TO 08.03.2021 UPTO 17:00 HRS & 24.02.2021	www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
3	HVPNL	NIT NO. 28/AMB/220KV SHAHABAD/2020-21, DATED 09.02.2021	THE TENDER WAS TO BE OPENED ON DATED 23.02.2021. NOW DATE EXTENDED UPTO 04.03.2021 DUE TO NON TURNING UP MINIMUM BIDDERS I.E. 3 NO. BIDDERS	www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
4	HVPNL	E-TENDER ENQIRY NO.21/CWR/2020-21 DATED 25.01.2021 (ONLINE TENDER ID- 2021_HBC_157539_1)	CORRIGENDUM NO. 02 THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 09.03.2021(13.00 HRS.)	www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
5	HVPNL	E-TENDER ENQIRY NO.22/CWR/2020-21 DATED 25.01.2021 (ONLINE TENDER ID- 2021_HBC_157543_1)	CORRIGENDUM NO. 02 THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 09.03.2021(13.00 HRS.)	www.hvnpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvnpn.org.in
6	DHBVN	NIT NO.44/ESTATE OFFICE/HISAR/2020-21 DATED 07.01.2021 (TENDER ID NO. 2021_HBC_155587_1)	DATE EXTENDED UP TO 01.03.2021	www.dhbvn.org.in	7027348444 estateofficer@hisar@dhbvn.org.in

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in RO 1928

2 ultras killed in Anantnag

Jammu: Two terrorists were eliminated by the joint team of security forces in Shalgul forest area of Srigufwara Anantnag on Wednesday. The operation was launched by the Anantnag police along with 3RR after receiving intelligence inputs about the presence of a group of terrorists in the said area.

According to a police spokesman, “during the search operation as the presence of terrorists got ascertained they were given an opportunity to surrender, however, they fired indiscriminately upon the joint search party, which was retaliated leading to an encounter”. “In the ensuing encounter, two unidentified terrorists were killed and their bodies were retrieved from the site of encounter. The identification and affiliation of the killed terrorists is being ascertained” a police spokesman added.

Before confirming the identity of slain terrorists the local police authorities announced incase any family claims the killed terrorists to be their kith or kin, they can come forward for their identification at PCR Kashmir.

Arms & ammunition including 02 AK rifles and other incriminating materials were recovered from the site of encounter, a police spokesman said. **PNS**

UP high school student gangraped, stabbed

Gonda (UP): In yet another shocking crime in Uttar Pradesh, a high school girl student in Mankapur Kotwali area of Gonda district was gang-raped and then stabbed by four men.

The girl was returning home from school on Tuesday evening when she was waylaid by four accused and dragged to a sugarcane field. The four men, one of whom belongs to her village, raped her by turns and then stabbed her on the hand, warning her not to report the incident. The girl returned to her home and informed her parents after which she lodged a complaint with the police.The police spokesman at Mankapur police station said that a case had been registered against the four accused for rape and under provisions of the POCSO Act. **IANS**

Sasikala wants Amma’s loyalists to join hands for Assembly polls

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The 73rd birth anniversary of former Chief Minister and AIADMK supremo J Jayalalithaa saw her close aide V K Sasikala asking “all Amma loyalists” to come together and fight the upcoming assembly elections to usher in Amma rule for the next 100 years.

Sasikala, who reached Chennai a fortnight ago after a 23-hour car journey from Bangalore where she was undergoing imprisonment for four years as an accused in a Disproportionate Asset case, garlanded a picture of Jayalalithaa at the former’s T Nagar bungalow and briefly spoke to her loyalists, mainly Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK), a political outfit floated by her nephew TTV Dhinakaran.

“The true cadre of Amma should come together and win the elections to form the government. Amma has mandated that even after 100 years, our government should be there. I am confident that you would accomplish that. I will also stand by you. Very soon, I will meet the people and the cadre,” said Sasikala in her brief speech. AIADMK cadre and Tamils address Jayalalithaa as Amma as a mark of reverence.

Sasikala did not mention the name

AIADMK even once. She wanted all cadres of Amma come together to win the elections. “To achieve that, you all should stand by me. Each one of you should work like bees and offer the victory in elections to her. You should take a vow towards this and work hard,” said Sasikala giving enough indications about who the queen bee is.

Though no known AIADMK leaders were present during the small function, leaders of fringe outfits like AISMK, Naam Tamilar (a Tamil chauvinistic organisation) and P R Pandian a CPI-leader-turned-farm leader called on Sasikala along with movie maker Bharati Raja called on Sasikala.

By evening there were reports that a Third-Front under Sasikala’s leadership was being formed and film actor Vijayakanth would cast his lot with this front. Though Vijayakanth has been immobilized because of indifferent health, his spouse Premalatha who is the treasurer of the DMDK had declared her support for Sasikala.

The AIADMK is yet to commence its talks on seat sharing with prospective allies. The DMDK has been expressing restlessness over the delay in seat-allocation talks. It is expected that the talks would gather momentum once the Election Commission of India announces the poll schedule this week.

Chikkaballapur blast: 5 nabbed, 2 K’taka cops suspended

Chikkaballapur: A day after an ‘accidental explosion’ in a quarry killed six persons in Karnataka’s Chikkaballapur, police arrested five persons including three partners of the mining firm, and suspended two police officers on Wednesday.

According to the police, the arrested are Raghavendra Reddy, Venkatashiva Reddy and Madhusudhan Reddy, who are partners of Sri Bhramaravasini Sanders while Praveen is a manager of this company and Mohammed Riyaz Ansari is the driver of the vehicle who drove the victims along with explosive materials.

Superintendent of Police Mithun Kumar G.K. told IANS that two police officers - Gudibande police station inspector Manjunath M.N. and sub-inspector G.R. Gopal Reddy have been suspended. He said these officers had failed to act “in time” against the owners of Bhramaravasini Sanders for illegal blasting and storage of explosives. “Since the police officials failed to arrest the accused despite complaints, they were suspended,” he said.

Following the incident on Tuesday, Karnataka Home Minister Basavaraj Bommai who had inspected the spot had directed Inspector General of Police (Central Range) M. Chandra Shekar to form three special teams to nab the culprits. Accordingly, the IGP had formed the teams under the supervision of Chikkaballapur SP Mithun Kumar. **IANS**

DADRA NAGAR HAVELI MP’S SUICIDE

Cong alleges UT Administrator was among officials who harassed Delkar

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Demanding an enquiry into the alleged suicide by sitting MP Mohan S. Delkar, the ruling Congress on Wednesday turned the needle of suspicion towards Administrator of the Union Territory (UT) of Dadra, Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu and former BJP MLA Praful Patel who, it alleged, was among the UT officials that harassed Delkar leading the latter ending his life.

In a video-conference held with Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh, State Congress general secretary Sachin Sawant and party’s spokesperson Dr Raju Wagmare alluded to a video clip released by late Delkar in mid-2020 and the suicide note left by the latter and rooted for thorough investigations into the circumstances leading to the suicide by the sitting MP.

“The tragic end of Mr Delkjar needs to be investigated. He has left A 16-page suicide note in which he has mentioned the names of all the officials who harassed him. It is being discussed among people that he has mentioned the name of Praful Patel, who is currently working as the Administrator of Dadra, Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu since 2016,” Sawant and Dr Wagmare said in their representation to the State Home Minister.

“Mr Patel is a former BJP MLA from Himatnagar constituency in Gujarat for its 12th legislative Assembly. He also served as an Minister of State for Home of Gujarat and is very close to the RSS and BJP’s national leadership,” the two Congress leaders said.

“It is pertinent to note that Delkar travelled to Mumbai late on Sunday, checked into a hotel and committed ‘suicide’ by hanging himself in the room. He may have chosen to come to Mumbai committing suicide because of he was not sure to get justice in the Union Territory,” Saware and Dr Wafgmare said.

“He must have come to Mumbai with an expectation from the MVA government that the culprits who compelled him to take the extreme step would be punished by law,” the two Congress leaders stated in their letter. On his part, the State Home Minister gave a patient hearing to the Congress, accepted their two-page representation and assured them that he would direct the Mumbai Police to look into the matter.

In their interaction with Deshmukh, the two Congress leaders alluded to a video released by Delkar sometime in mid-2020, in which the latter had threatened to resign as the MP as he could no longer bear the “insults and humiliating treatment” meted out to him

Danab Modi’s CBI grilled my Bahu: Didi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ HOOGHLY

Within 48 hours of Narendra Modi calling out for “real Poriborton (change of guards)” from a public rally in Hooghly, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched a blistering attack on the Prime Minister, calling him a “dangabaj” (rioter), a “daitya” and “danab” (demon) and daring him to defeat the Trinamool Congress in the (electoral) game that was in the offing.

Banerjee’s no-holds-barred attack came a day after CBI officials questioned Rujira Narula Banerjee the wife of her nephew and TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee regarding her bank transactions in Thailand. The CBI is porbing the multi-croer coal scam.Attacking the Prime Minister for using CBI against the opposition leaders, she said earlier they were threatening us but now they are entering the households and not even sparing the young Bahus (housewives).

“They sent CBI to harass a Bahu of my house. They are calling us coal thieves ... but let me ask who is a thief . These people stay in the hotels constructed by coal mafia at Durgapur, their leaders stay in the house of the

Ruias who have ruined the Dunlop company. They are selling out BSNL, Rail, LIC, SAIL, banks and are calling us coal thieves. Are the bahus of Bengal coal thieves?”

“I will play the Goalkeeper and see how many goals you can score,” the Chief Minister said invoking the weird ‘Khela Hobey’ (there will be a game) slogan that has recently gone into circulation in the poll-bound Bengal with the opposition leaders calling it a Trinamool ploy to terrorise the voters driving fears of a “bloody game” so that they remain indoors and do not venture out to vote.

Launching a fierce personal attack she said, “today the country is being ruled by a Hodol Kutkut (Bengali for a chubby person) and a Kimbhut Kimakar (weird looking guy) who have been peddling all kinds of lies against us to win elections.”

“Let me tell you that they are bigger Tolabaj in fact they are Dangabaj (rioters) who ignite riots to win elections,” Banerjee thundered from the same Dunlop Maidan where Modi addressed his rally on Monday and used the tolabaj jibe to attack the TMC.

“The other day the self-styled tallest leader of the country who

thinks himself even taller than Mahatma Gandhi came here to tell all kind of lies ... he spoke of development done by his Government, he said that the TMC has done nothing. If I did nothing then who made the Noapara Dakshineshwar Metro Railway, who made Joka Metro, who made Dankuni Amritsar freight corridor --- all these I had cleared as a Railway Minister of which this man is cutting ribbons and taking the credit,” Banerjee said adding I have not seen a Prime Minister to tell such amount of lies.”

“The country is being ruled by a doitya and a danab (Bengali for demons). They will try to break our spine. They will infiltrate and grab Bengal its culture and everything. Do you want that? Do you want Bengal to be ruled by Gujarat ... Bengal will be ruled by Bengal and not Gujarat,” she said. Referring to the ‘great fall of Donald Trump’ she said “he (Modi had held that hands of Trump thinking that he will continue to help him everywhere but now see what has happened to him (the former US President). I tell you this man’s condition will be even worse than that of Trump.”

AP records 94 more Covid cases, tally 8.89 lakh



Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh recorded 94 new Covid cases on Wednesday, raising the state’s tally over 8.89 lakh, even as 66 more persons recovered from the virus in the past 24 hours.

Chittoor district reported the highest number of cases at 21, followed by Visakhapatnam (15), Anantapur (11), Srikakulam (9) and East Godavari and Guntur (8 each) with Kadapa and Nellore (5 each), Krishna and Vizianagaram (4 each) and Kurnool and West Godavari (2 each).

East Godavari’s tally crossed 1.24 lakh, the highest among all Andhra districts, while the state’s positivity rate fell to 6.44 per cent, which is still higher than the national average of 5.18 per cent.

Surprisingly, the state’s active coronavirus cases rose back over 600 to reach 603 in the past 24 hours.

But no fatalities occurred due to the virus in the past 24 hours, retaining the total number of deaths at 7,168. Powered by 66 more recoveries, total recoveries crossed 8.81 lakh in the southern state.

With 32,494 more tests, total Covid tests in Andhra Pradesh crossed 1.38 crore. **IANS**

Cop killed in Bihar encounter with liquor mafia

Patna: A Sub-Inspector in Bihar’s Sitamarhi district was killed in an encounter with a liquor mafia gang while a guard sustained injuries on Wednesday afternoon. Sources said that a smuggler was also killed.

The encounter took place in Kunwari village around 12.15 pm.

P.N. Sahu, Deputy Superintendent of Police Sitamarhi confirmed the incident.

Sahu said that there was information about Sub Inspector Dinesh Ram posted in Majorganj police station who sustained gunshot injuries and later succumbed in Sadar hospital. There strict liquor prohibition laws in Bihar. **IANS**

At least 4 killed, 7 injured in road accident in Burdwan

Kolkata: In a tragic accident, a speeding truck mowed down as many as 11 people, killing at least four in the spot, in West Bengal’s Burdwan district on Wednesday.

Police said the incident took place on the National Highway (NH)-2 this evening near Palsit when the truck hit a group of passengers waiting for local transport along the highway.

At least four people were killed in the spot while seven others were taken to a nearby hospital with critical injuries. The condition of five injured passengers is really serious, sources said.

The truck was coming from Kolkata side and after the incident it fled the spot. The police have launched search drive to find the offending vehicle. **IANS**



People stand near the portion of a road which caved in, at Dalgate in Srinagar on Wednesday

PTI

Kerala CM withdraws cases over Sabarimala, CAA protests

Thiruvananthapuram: Under pressure from numerous quarters, the Pinarayi Vijayan government in Kerala on Wednesday decided to withdraw cases against protesters on the Sabarimala temple issue and also against those involved in anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests.

The state Cabinet decided to withdraw the cases as they are not serious criminal cases.

Incidentally, Vijayan was forced to take this decision after the Congress-led opposition said if they return to power, they would withdraw all these cases. Reacting to the Vijayan’s decision, Leader of Opposition Ramesh Chennithala said while he welcomes this decision, it came a bit late and the reasons why it has been made now is known to all, hinting at upcoming Assembly polls.

But BJP leader Kummanam Rajasekheran said he fails to understand why the decision appears to have come with a rider that “serious criminal

cases” will not be withdrawn.

“The government should first make things clear on which are those cases that fall under the serious category. We all expected that the government would apologise to the people for having unleashed a police raj against the Sabarimala believers and then they should have withdrawn each and every case that was registered against the believers who protested over violation of temple traditions,” said Rajasekheran.

G. Sukumaran Nair, general secretary of the Nair Service Society - the socio-cultural body of the Hindu Nairs - said this is certainly a good step of the Vijayan government.

“We were the first to demand this but I don’t think all the issues will end with this,” said Nair.

Back in 2018, Vijayan rubbed Sabarimala temple worshippers the wrong way when his government announced that it would go forward and implement the apex court order which said the temple should be

open to all women, as against the tradition and customs, no women in the age group 10 to 50 are allowed.

That led to massive protests by angry worshippers who came out in large numbers and fought a bitter battle with the police who were trying to escort women who came to break the tradition. During that period numerous cases was registered against the protesters.

Things took a turn for the worse for Vijayan when the LDF was able to win just one of the 20 Lok Sabha seats in Kerala and the single reason attributed was the anger of the Hindu community over breaking of the Sabarimala temple tradition.

And now with the Assembly polls round the corner, it remains to be seen, with the damage already done, how far this will benefit Vijayan who is aiming to become the first Chief Minister in the state’s history to return to power by winning two successive elections. **IANS**

Union MoS Defence Shripad Naik discharged a month after road accident

IANS ■ PANAJI

More than a month after he was hospitalised with serious injuries following a road accident in Karnataka, Union Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik on Wednesday was discharged from a top Government hospital.

Speaking to reporters, Dr. Shivanand Bandodkar, dean of the Goa Medical College, the state’s apex health facility, said that Naik’s wounds had healed well and he may be in a position to attend the budget session of Parliament, which is scheduled to reconvene after the ongoing break, in March.

“He has healed well. His thigh bone fracture is also healing. He needs rest, which he can take at home,” Bandodkar told reporters at the time of the Union Minister’s discharge.

“We will conduct an x-ray sitting again and after examining his condition, we will consider permitting him (to attend

Parliament). Considering his health, he may be able to attend it, but we will be able to say only after examination of his x-ray then,” the top medical official said.

Naik was travelling by car along with his wife and an aide in the north Kannada district as part of a private visit when his car overturned near Yallapura on January 12. His wife and an aide died from injuries received during the accident.

Speaking to reporters while escorting Naik out of the hospital, the Union Minister’s son Siddesh thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant for their assistance.

“Everyone has helped us a lot. I want to thank the Prime Minister and Defence Minister, other Union Ministers and party officials, Chief Minister and Health Minister and all party workers, because of whose support and blessings we were able to overcome this phase,” Siddhesh Naik said.

Shahjahanpur woman was set ablaze after failed gangrape bids

Shahjahanpur (UP): The BA second year student who was found half-burnt near a highway in Shahjahanpur, has now told the police that three people tried to rape her in a field near Rai Kheda village on Monday evening and when they did not succeed, they poured kerosene and set her on fire.

Superintendent of Police S. Anand said that the girl gave this statement to the investigators. She has not yet named the accused.

The victim has now been admitted to Civil Hospital in Lucknow. She has suffered more than 70 per cent burn injuries on the stomach chest and neck.

The police officer, however, said that she frequently changed her statements and also said that she was not aware how she reached the hospital from the third floor of her college building.

In CCTV footage, the girl, a student of a college run by a trust of former union minister Swami Chinmayanand, was seen coming down alone from the third floor, the police said.

The SP said, “With the help of CCTV footage, we have found that the girl went out of the college campus from a broken outer wall about 20 minutes after entering the premises and was seen walking alone on a canal road.”

Before that, the girl could be seen talking to her friends outside a classroom and visiting a library.

Three teams led by deputy superintendents of police (DSP) as well as an SOG team have been deployed. **IANS**



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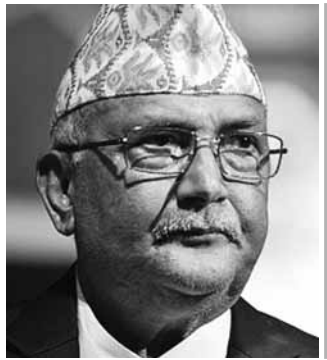
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PAPER WITH PASSION

Trouble next door

Nepal's top court revokes PM Oli's Parliament dissolution decision, forcing him to face trust vote

In a major blow to Nepal's Prime Minister (PM) KP Sharma Oli, their Supreme Court has ruled that the Himalayan nation's Parliament, which was dissolved by Oli in December 2020, must be reconvened. The court has given Oli two weeks to reinstate the legislature, which was dissolved following protracted internal disputes within his ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP). In what is being seen as a major slap on the wrist for Oli, the top court ruled that the PM had overstepped his powers and the dissolution of the House was an unconstitutional act. The apex court's verdict means that Oli will face a no-confidence motion when the legislators reconvene because he had dissolved Parliament about two years before its mandated five-year term was to end, to head off a no-trust motion by the rival leaders in his party. Now that he has nowhere to hide, Nepal has been pushed into another round of political instability. As of now, all indications are that Oli will respect the court's verdict and, if his advisors are to be believed, he won't consider any undemocratic move like imposing an emergency. However, both India and China will be watching the developments very closely as Oli had been re-elected in 2017 on the promise of forging stronger ties with China, a promise he kept all too well! India, which was once viewed as "big brother" to the Himalayan nation, had to play second fiddle to China as Oli danced to the tunes of Beijing and



Chinese Ambassador Hou Yanqi and initiated several major development projects as part of Chinese efforts to boost trade and transit links in the region.

Not only did this end India's monopoly in Nepal, it also led to increased tension between the neighbours as Oli issued many unsavoury and unwarranted remarks against India. The relations soured further as Beijing's influence in Nepal and its meddling in Oli's party grew. The last straw was Nepal coming out with a new political map in May 2020 claiming several areas in Uttarakhand to be part of its territory. However, to India's credit, it kept its cool with its long-time ally and made all-out efforts to mend fences. In the end, Oli did come around to better ties with India, particularly after it became clear to him that China was indifferent to his continuation in the Government if it helped avoid a split in the NCP. The shift in Oli's approach could be attributed to an attempt to reclaim the nationalist agenda that was the mainstay of his campaign that resulted in the NCP's win in 2018. That China lately appeared indifferent to his continuation in the Government is also believed to have contributed to Oli's stand. Now India and China, both jockeying for influence in Nepal, will keep a sharp eye on the political developments there. Where India is concerned, a weak coalition Government could be more supportive of New Delhi than hawkish Oli, who is seen as more interested in remaining in power in whatever way he can.

PICTALK



A farmer checks mustard flowers at a farm on the outskirts of Amritsar

PTI

Continuing travails

COVID-19 cases on the rise again, many States make negative RTPCR test mandatory

It's happened so frequently in the recent history of public health in India that it's almost become a case of "so near and yet so far". Every time the authorities, the health-care workers and the good Samaritans show due diligence and together bring COVID-19 cases under control, either a new strain is detected reaching our country or people — especially those living away from the metros and tier-I cities — ignore the standard protocols and become victims and carriers of the accursed virus. Now the latest news coming in is that the COVID-19 caseload across the country has shown a northward trend for the ninth successive day, crossing 13,000 on Tuesday, which is the longest such rolling average since infections peaked in September last year. In more worrying news, the Union Health Ministry has said that two new strains of SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing COVID-19, have been detected in India. These new strains — N440K and E484K — have been detected in Kerala and Maharashtra. However, there is currently no evidence to show that the recent spike in COVID-19 cases in parts of these two States is due to these new variants.

Meanwhile, negative COVID-19 test report (negative RT-PCR test) has been made mandatory for entering several States: Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Uttarakhand, J&K, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Ladakh and Chhattisgarh. Meanwhile, with the recent spurt in Coronavirus cases in five States, Delhi will make it essential for those arriving from these States to carry a negative COVID test report. People travelling to Delhi from Maharashtra, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab by flights, trains or buses will have to show a negative RT-PCR test from Saturday till March 15. But all's not bleak; there is some good news, too. The Union Cabinet has decided to provide the vaccines for free to certain sections, with Union Minister Prakash Javadekar tweeting that beginning March 1 "people over 60 years of age or over 45 with comorbidities will be able to get vaccinated at 10,000 Government facilities and many private hospitals". As of last week, there has globally been a "strong decline" in Coronavirus infections in the US and the UK since January. Inversely, however, it is very likely that such reports are offering a false sense of security to people to take it easy, which shouldn't be the case. If we let our guard down now, India with its population may find it nigh impossible to break free from the clutches of this virus. It's now or never!

Time to look and act East

While democracy is the most sought after means of governance, it becomes a farce when core values are compromised, like in the case of Myanmar

The long-awaited goal of democracy in Myanmar was achieved in 2011 after a five-decade struggle led by civil society, international actors and agencies against an autocratic military in the country. However, the recent *coup d'état* by the national Army has once again led Myanmar to uncertain times. The coup surprised the world and it shall be seen as the outcome of a compromised leadership by Aung San Suu Kyi. Despite registering a mammoth victory in the November 2020 elections, the Suu Kyi-led National League for Democracy (NLD) was accused by the Army and Opposition of poll irregularities, corruption and unethical means in "stealing" the victory; hence, the coup.

While the Union Election Commission has refuted all claims of poll irregularities by the NLD, it was in no way possible that the Army would not act to assert its political victory, considering an uneasy ride with the NLD Government in the last six years.

Amid mounting international pressure, the military junta was forced to pave the way for the entry of democratic forces in 2010. The political prisoners were released, including Suu Kyi, but the NLD boycotted the elections over alleged irregularities by the military-backed Union Solidarity and Development Party. However, over the next five years, the NLD gained popular support which was reflected in the 2015 general elections. The NLD won 168 of the 224 seats in the Amyotha Hluttaw (House of Nationalities), with 25 per cent seats going to the Army without any contest. It indicated more space for pro-democracy leadership and restoration of the multiparty parliamentary system. In 2011, President U Thein Sein had carried out significant political and economic reforms though these were in sync with the needs and demands of the military.

For the current fiasco, one needs to look at the 2008 Constitution of the Myanmar Army as one of the root causes. The Constitution had strength-



ened the Army's role in the parliamentary system on the legal front. Considering the popularity of Suu Kyi in the new political order, the Army had especially added that a President should have a military background and none of his/her spouses be subjects of a foreign power or citizen of a foreign country to limit her chances of holding the President's office as her two sons are British citizens. The Home and the Defence portfolios can be held only by the Army, and the 25 per cent reservation was to keep the military in full control. The emergency powers have further strengthened the Army's position.

In the course of a popular public movement demanding to reinstate a democratic order, Suu Kyi's rise became synonymous to democracy. Yet she failed to condemn and control the gross human rights violations of Rohingyas in the Rakhine State. The refugee Rohingyas moved *en masse* to neighbouring Bangladesh. While the world was looking at Suu Kyi to emerge as a messiah for ethnic Rohingyas, she chose to rescue her own party. More surprisingly, she was seen labelling Rohingyas as

"illegal migrants" who were already tagged as "Islamic terrorists" by the Army. While Amnesty International stripped away her honours, there were calls to take back even the Nobel Peace Prize.

Suu Kyi may have been vocal for democracy in Myanmar but she failed to stand for it while in power. She condemned neither a State-sponsored ethnic cleansing by the Army nor the Buddhist lobby that was reportedly instrumental in the alleged brutalities. Therefore, while the world is condemning the coup, international actors are cautious in defending Suu Kyi. It is an open secret that the NLD co-existed with the Army, but the compulsions of democracy had kept them on different paths. In reality, the Generals never gave up on their political aspirations and failure through the electoral route made the coup evitable.

India has aired its voice in favour of democracy and normalcy in Myanmar. At the same time, New Delhi has opted not to slap any sanctions unlike the US, UK and the EU. As a champion of democracy, India's appeal for its restoration remains the common element across the volatile political surfaces globally. It helps New

Delhi to convey the message of peace and democracy more actively. India's COVID-19 vaccine gift to Myanmar is proof of its commitment to peaceful humanitarian causes.

Meanwhile, as an important country in India's Act East policy, New Delhi needs to look at the Myanmar border with utmost caution. India's challenge will not be limited to tackling an increasing bonhomie between China and the Myanmar Army; the looming political crisis in Bangladesh will double India's Eastern challenge.

The recent *exposé* — 'All the Prime Minister's Men' by Al Jazeera, revealing an alleged criminal nexus between the Bangladesh Army chief, his brothers and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina-led Bangladesh Nationalist Party — has caused an uproar. While the Bangladesh Government has backed the Army, the alleged claims in the *exposé* are of grave concerns. Therefore, the Act East policy needs to include emergency strategies of diplomatic, intelligence, security and political nature.

(The author is an ICSSR Doctoral Fellow at the JNU, New Delhi, and Senior Fellow at the AIDIA, Kathmandu. The views expressed are personal.)



THE CURRENT CASE OF MYANMAR IS NOTHING MORE THAN A MATTER OF COMPROMISED LEADERSHIP THAT WAS UNABLE TO BRING IN FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN THE ARMY'S FUNCTIONING

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DISHA RAVI VINDICATED

Sir — While granting bail to activist Disha Ravi, Additional Sessions Judge Dharmender Rana demolished almost every charge levelled against her because "not even an iota of evidence was brought to the court's notice". This a rap on the knuckles of the Centre and the Delhi Police.

Interestingly, before speaking about the conscience of the nation, Judge Rana quoted the *Rig Veda* and reminded the nation: "This 5,000-year-old civilisation of ours has never been averse to ideas from varied quarters." For her part, the activist Disha Ravi said if it was sedition to highlight farmers' protest globally, she was willing to be imprisoned. She also clarified that there was no question of collaborating with the pro-Khalistani group, Poetic Justice Foundation.

But when the court has thrown this "toolkit" charge into the waste paper basket, one wonders whether it has made the BJP feel embarrassed of its own "toolkit": Charging innocent citizens with cooked-up stories, unleashing the ED, IT and/or the CBI on political opponents and toppling State Governments by way of horse trading. I strongly feel that the verdict is an encouragement to and booster for Disha Ravi to stand up against all concocted charges. One should be happy with her bail order but hope she draws a *Lakshman rekha* for herself; otherwise she may keep facing such problems in the future, too.

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee | Faridabad

PROVIDE FREE JOBS TO SENIORS

Sir — Glad to read about the Union Government's decision to vaccinate people above the age of 60 years against Coronavirus from March 1, besides including people above 45 who suffer from comorbidities in the second phase. As per the statement made by Union Minister Prakash Javadekar, India's vaccination drive proposal has been approved by the Union Cabinet and the above-mentioned groups will receive the shot at the Government's expense and at its facilities.

The announcement comes at a time when there is an alarming spurt in the

Congress needs a major shake-up



This refers to the editorial 'Shaky leadership' (February 24). With the sun setting for the Congress in Puducherry, it's the ninth State the 'Grand Old Party' has lost since 2014. It now enjoys power in merely three States — Punjab, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. The story of Congress' decline isn't new; it has virtually been a repeat telecast since the BJP-led NDA came to power. The ideological bankruptcy of the top

leadership has tickled down to the ranks, leading to a crisis at the grassroots.

Though the BJP has the backing of the RSS-type booth-level workers, who are dedicated to consolidating votes in favour of the saffron party, the Congress misses its Sewa Dal whose political significance has been overshadowed by a lack of intent and commitment. Also, the top leadership needs to acknowledge various inputs by the think tank within the Congress, mainly the G-23 (Group of 23 leaders) who wrote to demand leadership reforms. The party urgently needs an overhaul in ideology, besides flexibility to adapt as per the situation's demands.

By playing the card of soft Hindutva, the Congress is falling for the core competency of the BJP and it is bound to boomerang. The party needs to bridge the trust deficit, make the organisation less of a family enterprise and keep the cadres and alliance partners buoyant even in crises.

Nischai Vats | Sultanpur

number of COVID-19 cases across the country, particularly in Maharashtra, Kerala, Gujarat, Punjab, Karnataka and Jammu and Kashmir. I believe that the Centre does not have any alternative but to provide free vaccination to the citizens as quite a lot of people would not be able to afford it, thus preferring to stay back and take recourse to home-made remedies. This development, if it comes about, would totally defeat the purpose of the world's biggest inoculation programme as there would be critical gaps left uncovered in the chain of vaccinated Indians. Also, the Centre must insist that private hospitals also give free vaccines to people aged 60 and above with the cost being borne by the Government.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

A STADIUM STANDS TALL

Sir — In India, cricket is a religion and we look at our cricketers as demigods. To stay at the pinnacle of our global success in the sport, we need to have world-class stadia

for grooming our youngsters on their way up to the highest level. In this regard, the inauguration of the world's largest cricket stadium in Ahmedabad is a giant leap towards a new era.

The stadium, which was closed for renovation in 2015, has been a witness to some major milestones in Indian cricket in its previous avatar. Sunil Gavaskar reached his 10,000 run-mark in Test cricket here against Pakistan in 1987 and, in 1994, Kapil Dev claimed his 432nd Test wicket to become the highest wicket-taker in the world, surpassing Sir Richard Hadlee. The ground has a state-of-the-art drainage system that will take just 30 minutes from the time it stops raining to flush out the water. Also, it is the only cricket stadium in the world to have four dressing rooms for the players so that back-to-back games can be played on the same day.

CK Subramaniam | Navi Mumbai

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

I cannot build any other capital (on the demand that Purnia be the State capital). If anyone else becomes the Chief Minister after me, they can do whatever they wish. I cannot do such a thing.

Bihar Chief Minister —Nitish Kumar



I am frustrated that (French company) Naval Group have not yet been able to finalise this contract but it will not be done at the expense of Australian industry.

Australia's Defence Minister —Linda Reynolds

I miss my long hair. I miss tying that rubber band when I'm bare. I miss my long walks at the lake of my hometown's creek. I miss listening to my old-time playlist.

Actor —Ayushmann Khurrana



Playing 100 Tests as a fast bowler is no mean feat and playing especially in our conditions, things can get so difficult. But he (Ishant Sharma) kept working hard.

Indian captain —Virat Kohli

We found that they (the Congress, during the pandemic) had given registration numbers of scooters and three-wheelers. Is this not a joke on the people?

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister —Yogi Adityanath



FIRST COLUMN

TEXAS MUST READ UP ON GLOBAL WARMING

Climate change doesn't care whether you believe in it or not. And it may get worse



GWYNNE DYER

It's not funny when people die of the cold but there was some innocent amusement to be had from the indignation of Texans unable to boil their drinking water during the 'Big Freeze' because the power was still out. Things like that are not supposed to happen in a modern, developed country like the US of A. How dare they? Others, aware that Texas has cut every corner in public services that it's possible to cut, were unsurprised by the five-day mini-disaster that struck the country's second-biggest State. One blogger wrote philosophically: "Occasionally, something will happen in Texas to remind the people who live here that we live in a failed State." A winter temperature 25°C colder than usual for the time of year is rare, but this is not the first time it has snowed in Texas. The electricity failed, triggering a cascade of other disasters, mainly because of a long-standing refusal to connect the State power grid with the two main national ones. (This was done to avoid federal supervision on prices and standards). Others have cold snaps too. Germany, Russia, Canada, even northern China get much colder than Texas, but they don't end up freezing in the dark because they are prepared for it.

Texas could have been prepared for it, too, but somebody in power would have had to read science journals for that. Since they almost all got elected with donations from fossil fuel producers, that was never very likely. The "explainers" in the media talk about a rogue 'Arctic vortex', but what's really happening is much simpler.



It's just what global warming has done to the northern hemisphere's 'jet stream.' The northern jet stream is a high-speed, high-altitude atmospheric 'river' that flows from the West to the East all the way around the planet. It marks the boundary between the Polar air mass, sometimes called the 'Polar Vortex', and the warmer air masses of the mid-latitudes. East-bound airliners crossing the North Atlantic and the North Pacific often hitch a ride on the jet stream, saving up to an hour. The energy that drives the jet stream comes from the temperature difference between the two air masses it divides. However, the Arctic is warming much faster than the rest of the world, so that difference is shrinking and, with less energy the jet stream is slowing down. It used to blast straight East but even then it occasionally developed long S-shaped kinks called 'Rossby waves.' These are big loops extending far North and South of its usual track. As it has slowed down (the average speed is now 150-225 kmph), the Rossby waves have grown more frequent and bigger. They are often now great loops deviating from the straight track and bring with them cold Polar air rarely seen so far South, or warm air not seen previously so far North. That's what happened to Texas last week: One of those Rossby waves brought cold Arctic air all the way South. This pattern will recur and Texans will have to live with it.

Climate change doesn't care whether you believe in it or not. And it may get worse. In June-July 2018 record-breaking heatwaves hit western US, Western Europe and the Caucasus-Caspian Sea region, while there was extreme rainfall and flash flooding on the US east coast, in eastern Europe and Japan. It was all happening in big Rossby loops that had taken over the jet stream. All the loops, containing hot dry air or cool moist air, were stuck for over two weeks. By last year, researchers had found that over the last 20 years the same pattern of seven stalled peaks and lows over the same regions has lasted seven times for more than two weeks. In the previous 20 years (1980-2000), that had not happened even once. This suggests that the pattern is getting stronger. And, since the latitudes where the loops are stalling include most of the major "breadbasket" regions of the northern hemisphere, the crop-killing droughts and heatwaves they bring could cause a big loss in world food production. It's the unknowns that do the worst damage.

(Gwynne Dyer's new book is 'Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy and Work.' The views expressed are personal.)

Time to tackle online gender violence

Despite the existence of regulatory mechanisms, we have not been able to effectively handle online safety challenges owing to the lack of proper implementation



SHRUTI SHREYA

SHEFALI MEHTA

The internet has evolved as an indispensable tool for transforming our society and culture. Women, especially those living in rural India, have been empowered to speak about their diverse realities, discuss common concerns and organise for change. However, the challenges of censorship and overregulation emanating from actions like blocking of LGBTQ+ sites or silencing of female voices on social media through misogynistic hate speech and trolling, make it essential to find sustainable solutions to these concerns that are threatening the online safety of vulnerable communities. After all, with the internet becoming the ultimate manifestation of our social reality, attaining online equality is paramount for ensuring the same offline.

The feminist landscape of online hate: The last decade has witnessed instances of cyberstalking, rape threats and other forms of gendered violence increase at an alarming rate on the internet. In stark contrast to claims that "cyberhate" is predominantly innocuous, there are a range of academic studies which prove the widespread suffering caused, owing to the consequent social, psychological and economic harm inflicted upon women due to this challenge. The problem of gendered cyberhate has become far more prevalent since the advent of web 2.0, which was marked by the shift towards a greater amount of user-generated content, collaboration, interactivity and information sharing over the web. This facilitated online antagonists to get easier access to their targets in a manner that was never possible before. According to a 2015 report by the United Nations, 73 per cent of women have experienced some form of online violence. An analysis conducted by a leading daily revealed that out of every 10 writers who receive abusive comments online, eight were women.

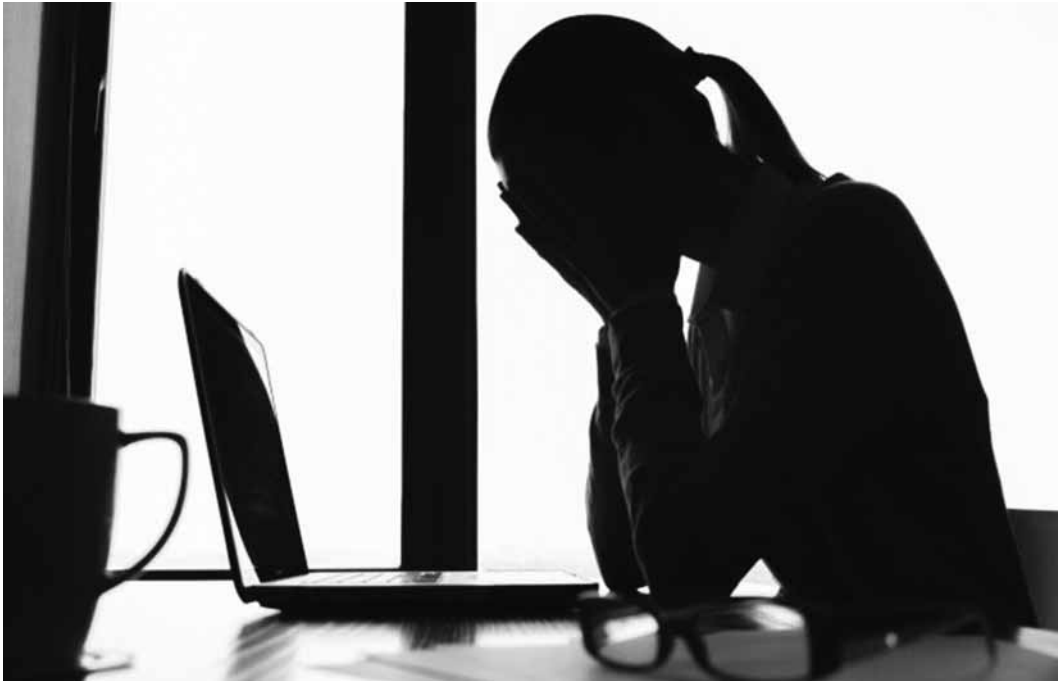
Types of online hate: Online abuse can be placed on a wide spectrum of violence, ranging from mildly irritating (cyberstalking) at one end to unequivocally criminal (revenge pornography) at the other. One peculiar characteristic of this challenge as seen in India and many other developing economies, is the dimension of domestic violence which is increasingly being observed as a major component of most of the cases of online harassment. Some of the most prominent forms of gendered cyberhate faced by women online include cyberbullying, a challenge whose primary target is mainly school and college girls. Then there is cyberstalking, which includes the perpetrator making unwarranted attempts to contact the target by installing a spyware on her phone or hacking her email/social media accounts. Plus there is denial of service, wherein, the online platforms disables the person to voice herself, often due to her unconventional views. Other major forms of online harm are doxing, which involves publication of personally identifiable information about a person that enables online antagonists to find their targets offline, and the most critically dangerous of all including revenge pornography (publishing sexually explicit content, often of a former partner without their consent) and sextortion (hacking webcams, installing malwares or impersonating as someone's romantic interest to obtain intimate information and images).

Implications of the harm on users: Extensive evidence exists to show that gendered cyberhate inflicts significant psychological, social, reputational and economic distress and harm upon women.



A SURVEY CONDUCTED BY FEMINISM IN INDIA UNDERScoreD THAT 50 PER CENT OF WOMEN IN MAJOR CITIES OF INDIA HAVE FACED ONLINE ABUSE. HOWEVER, WOMEN ARE NOT THE ONLY VICTIMS OF SUCH ABUSE. THERE IS CONCURRENTLY RAMPANT ONLINE HARASSMENT OF INDIVIDUALS FROM MARGINALISED GENDERS AND SEXUALITIES AS WELL

Shreya is Policy Research Assistant and Mehta is Strategic Engagement and Research Coordinator, The Dialogue. The views expressed are personal.



This includes putting limitations on their ability to engage in meaningful activism to respond to the challenge of gendered cyberhate itself. This leads to serious concerns of violation of both rights guaranteed under international human rights laws and the Constitution of India, including their right to free speech, right to informational privacy, right to bodily integrity and right to reputation, to name a few. As another major concern, it is seen that women who depend on the internet to earn their livelihood are more prone to receiving online hate. This causes serious repercussions for them to find and keep access to their jobs and socially and professionally network themselves — causing blatant breach of their right to livelihood and gender equality.

Understanding and solving the problem: We must not forget that India has not only bagged one of the top ranks for having the highest number of internet users, but it is also the country that tops the statistics of global sexual harassment. The harassment faced by women in the physical world is mirrored by the image harassment faced by them in the online world. A survey conducted by Feminism in India underscored that 50 per cent of women in major cities of India have faced online abuse. However, women are not the only victims of such abuse. There is concurrently rampant online harassment of individuals from marginalised genders and sexualities as well. A truly intersectional view of the issue demands that it is specifically

addressed through policy and law, as it is evident that the laws at present that were created with the purpose of protecting women are failing at their task to create a safe place online. Cyberhate, specifically, is a growing issue in the Indian online space. With a charged society polarised by religion and politics, the instances of hateful, violating, or mean comments that occur in the comment sections, forums and on other websites or social media have multiplied. In the case of cyberhate not all violations may be explicitly against the law, they are still serious and unacceptable as a part of online presence, as much as it would be in the physical society. It is important to recognise that to truly tackle the issue of cyberhate, our society, platforms and institutions including the Government must come together. Cyberhate must be dealt with at a societal level through awareness and change in mindsets while institutions must provide for zero tolerance and also grievance redressal. It must exist at all levels. For example, employers must show a responsibility and obligation towards staff to provide them with tools or resources to deal with the cyberhate that they might face as a consequence of the work they are required to do online. Also, legal measures and institutional methods against hate speech are unlikely to be able to tackle the sheer volume of online publications. A complete solution would be to work together with ISPs and platforms i.e. intermediaries to develop comprehensive codes of conduct or community guidelines based on

which removal of offensive content takes place. Platforms have the ability to use their technology to detect such content and thereby filter/flag or even remove it. It is equally important to enhance their responsibility in these scenarios to be able to complement the efforts of law enforcement.

The way forward: With the IPC, IT Act and the POCSO rules in place we have adequate laws to tackle cyberhate. The challenge is to effectively implement these laws to ensure safe online space. The Draft Intermediary Guidelines, 2018, envisaged under the IT Act received extant criticism owing to its deleterious impact on free speech and privacy of users. If implemented, it would pierce the encryption-enabled anonymity enjoyed by women and marginalised groups. This anonymity is crucial to tackle trolls with counter-speech and ensure online safety. A recent study explains how the mandate of proactive monitoring under the Draft Guidelines by using automated tools and introducing traceability, by breaking encryption, would undermine the safety of users.

Despite the existence of regulatory mechanisms, we have not been able to effectively handle online safety challenges owing to the lack of proper implementation. The onus of reform cannot be entirely placed on regulation and also lies on the participants in the ecosystem who have a major role in ensuring that progressive laws and policies are rightly implemented and followed. It is the duty of the State to effectively prosecute perpetrators of online hate.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

FOR ME, COMING TO KERALA WAS REFRESHING AS I FOUND THAT PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED IN ISSUES. NOT SUPERFICIALLY BUT GOING INTO DETAILS. —CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



A FEW DAYS AGO HE WAS IN THE NORTH-EAST SPEWING VENOM AGAINST THE WESTERN PART OF INDIA. TODAY HE IS SPEWING VENOM AGAINST THE NORTH. —BJP PRESIDENT J.P. NADDA

Bumps in the way of adoption of EVs in India

EV technology is the future of mobility but dithering Government measures mean that this amazing technology is still stuck in neutral

Rising fuel prices, a nascent electric vehicle (EV) support infrastructure and the recently-announced vehicle scrappage policy amid worrying pollution levels, are creating an unprecedented crisis of sorts for Indians as far as commuting is concerned. These conditions are exacerbated by a creaking public transport system that is bursting at the seams. The seemingly unstoppable rally of fuel price hikes is undoubtedly the most disturbing development so far for a nation that is battling a pandemic-induced economic downturn and dwindling income levels.

In view of a divided and weak Opposition, that repeatedly fails to take up key issues that affect the common man, the Government has mustered enough confidence to dish out 21 fuel hikes in the



KOTA SRIRAJ

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

first two months of the new year, if media reports are to be believed. For many of us, the rise in pollution levels and fuel prices has come as an indication to shift towards EVs or public transport, but in these times of Coronavirus-induced social distancing, jostling in a crowded public conveyance does not seem to be a natural choice.

The finality of making an alternative choice for commuting has been further strengthened by the announcement of the vehicle scrappage policy which makes owning an old vehicle in Delhi-NCR impossible and very costly elsewhere in the country. Though this policy has delighted auto manufacturers as new vehicle demand is expected to soar, the citizens whose budgets have been severely hit by the pandemic

may not share the same enthusiasm, as many of their perfectly maintained vehicles will end up in scrapyards. In the midst of this chaos, the EV industry is emerging as the apt solution for all the existent problems, but the Indian EV sector is anything but fully ready to meet the challenge.

The auto sector, which was experiencing a slowdown even before the virus' outbreak, came to its knees as the full impact of the COVID-19 contagion was unleashed. The Union Budget addressed the sector's concerns by focusing on reliefs such as tax holidays for EV startups. The setting aside of ₹2,217 crore for 'Clean Air', for 42 urban centres with a million-plus population is also a good move that can spread awareness about the environmental benefits of EVs.



Similarly, the Government's plan for strengthening the public transport sector under the Public-Private-Partnership model with an outlay of ₹18,000 crore for operating 20,000 buses is encouraging for the EV industry.

The scheme can help fight air pollution effectively. But inexplicably, this is where the Government's vision gets blurry as the Budget does not mention any EV-focused initiative

or policy, including Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Electric Vehicles (FAME).

Other expectations, including the ramping up of EV charging infrastructure, enablement of retail financing for EVs and moderation of the inverted Goods and Services Tax (GST) structure along with lowering of taxes on EV input components, including battery, were also not addressed.

The EV manufacturers were hopeful of a firmer policy commitment from the Government, especially in the duty structure pertaining to batteries. The Budget platform could have been used to fix the inverted duty structure for components such as batteries from 18 per cent to five per cent and for charging/swapping infrastructure services, too, from

18 per cent to five per cent. For instance, a lithium-ion battery fitted in an EV attracts 12 per cent GST but it is 18 per cent GST when sold separately. Correction of such issues would have lent enormous confidence to EV manufacturers and provided a much-needed push to the sector. Similarly, lowering of import duties on automotive parts instead of raising them would have had the same positive impact on the spirit of the industry, besides lowering the critical costs of production.

The absence of an aggressive push from the Government for the indigenous EV industry has raised concerns for its future. World leading EV manufacturers such as Tesla are already eyeing the huge potential of the Indian market. In fact, Tesla has already registered itself as

an entity in India in Bengaluru, with the intention of manufacturing EV cars. Hyundai's Kona and Morris Garages' ZS EV, are already making inroads in the Indian market as we speak. With competition already getting hot, Indian EV manufacturers need more support from the Government in the form of sops, tax holidays for four-wheel EV makers, better GST structures and lower import duties besides robust financing options for the consumers. These measures combined with superior nationwide charging infrastructure can render fossil fuel cars obsolete, paving the way for their phase-out.

EV technology is the future of mobility but dithering Government measures mean that this amazing technology is still stuck in neutral in the country.

Oli in no mood to resign, ready to face Parl: Official

PTI ■ KATHMANDU

Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli will not resign immediately and implement the Supreme Court's verdict against him by facing Parliament that is due to convene within two weeks, an official representing the embattled premier said on Wednesday.

In a landmark ruling, a five-member constitutional bench led by Chief Justice Chandra Shumsher on Tuesday annulled the Oli government's "unconstitutional" decision to dissolve the 275-member lower house of Parliament. The court also ordered the government to summon the House session within the next 13 days.

Nepal plunged into a political crisis on December 20 after President Bidya Devi Bhandari dissolved the House and announced fresh elections on April 30 and May 10 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli, amidst a tussle for power within the ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP).

Oli's Press Advisor Surya Thapa said the prime minister,



Nepalese supporters of a splinter group in the governing Nepal Communist Party participate in a rally to celebrate the Supreme Court order in Kathmandu on Wednesday

who turned 69 this week, intends to implement the verdict of the apex court after facing Parliament that is due to convene within two weeks.

"The Supreme Court's verdict is controversial, however, it should be accepted and implemented. Its effects will be seen in the future as the decision has not provided any solution to the political problems," Thapa said. He claimed that the apex court's verdict will fuel instability and pave way for

power-play. "The Prime Minister will face the House of Representatives to implement the verdict but will not tender his resignation as of now," Thapa was quoted as saying by The Himalayan Times.

Oli's Chief Advisor Bishnu Rimal, mirroring Thapa's sentiments, said that all will have to accept the court's decision. "However, it provides no solution to existing political complications," Rimal said.

Senate confirms Linda as US Ambassador to UN

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Linda Thomas-Greenfield, a veteran diplomat and Joe Biden's nominee, has been confirmed as America's next ambassador to the United Nations by the US Senate, adding a key member to the President's national security team as it seeks to reengage with the world body.

The 100-member Senate on Tuesday backed Thomas-Greenfield by 78 to 20 votes to be US' representative at the world body and a member of Biden's Cabinet. Thomas-Greenfield, 68, is a 35-year veteran of the Foreign Service who has served on four continents, most notably in Africa.

Vice President Kamala Harris is scheduled to administer her the oath of office at the White House on Wednesday.

"Today's Senate confirmation of Linda Thomas-Greenfield as the US Permanent Representative to the United Nations reinforces President Biden's commitment to restore and expand American leadership on the global stage," Secretary of State Tony Blinken said.

"Thomas-Greenfield is a seasoned diplomat, deeply committed to American values, and the right choice to rebuild our nation's standing at the UN and in other multilateral venues. I congratulate her on her confirmation, and eagerly anticipate our partnership in serving the American people and their interests," Blinken said in a statement.

Experts fear fresh wave of prisoners in Myanmar

AP ■ JAKARTA

Whether taken from their homes in the middle of the night or grabbed off the streets during protests, hundreds of people have been arrested in the weeks since Myanmar's military coup, leading human rights groups and experts to fear a sizable expansion in the number of political prisoners in the country.

As of Tuesday, some 696 people — including monks, writers, activists, politicians and others — had been arrested in relation to the coup, according to the Assistance Association for Political



Prisoners, or AAPP, a Myanmar-based organisation. Many of those arrested were charged using a legacy of laws — some dating back to British colonial times and others instituted under previous military regimes — that have been used against critics by every government, including the one led by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, which was ousted in the Feb. 1 coup.

Prisoners, or AAPP, a Myanmar-based organisation. Many of those arrested were charged using a legacy of laws — some dating back to British colonial times and others instituted under previous military regimes — that have been used against critics by every government, including the one led by Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, which was ousted in the Feb. 1 coup.

Myanmar's military junta must relinquish power: US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Myanmar's military junta must relinquish power and restore the democratically-elected government, the US has said, asserting that it stands with the people and supports their aspirations in reinstating

a civilian-led government in the country. Myanmar's military early this month toppled the government and seized power for one year, detaining top political figures, including de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi and President U Win Myint in the bloodless coup.

Indonesia presses regional effort to resolve Myanmar crisis

Bangkok: Regional diplomatic efforts to resolve Myanmar's political crisis gathered pace Wednesday, while protests continued in Yangon and other cities calling for the country's coup-makers to stand down and Aung San Suu Kyi's elected government to be returned to power.

Biden would not be okay if Taliban ruled Af: White House

Washington: US President Joe Biden would not be okay if the Taliban ruled Afghanistan, the White House has said, underlining that there is an ongoing process of considering the next steps to ensure peace in the war-torn country.

The US and the Taliban reached an agreement in February 2020 that called for a permanent ceasefire, peace negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government, and a withdrawal of all foreign forces by May 1. There are about 2,500 US

troops currently in the country. The Taliban had their ouster at the hands of US-led troops in 2001.

"I don't think he would say he'd be okay with that," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters on Tuesday when asked if Biden is okay with the Taliban ruling Afghanistan.

"But again, there's an ongoing process of considering the next steps in Afghanistan. That's an ongoing discussion, and I'm not going to get ahead of where that sits at this point in time," Psaki said.

Afghan Taliban have had sanctuary in Pak: Ex-top US general

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

A former top US military official has told lawmakers that the Afghan Taliban have had sanctuary in Pakistan and the terror group originated from the madrassas in that country.

During a Congressional hearing on Tuesday, General (ret) Joseph F Dunford, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, also told lawmakers that the probability of civil war is high in the wake of a precipitous US withdrawal from Afghanistan.

US, Bangladesh agree to address challenges in S Asia, greater Indo-Pacific region

Washington: US Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and the two leaders discussed ways to deepen economic, defence and counterterrorism cooperation while agreeing to work together to address challenges in South Asia and the greater Indo-Pacific region.

Blinken called Momen over the phone on Tuesday. During their call, they discussed Myanmar, a durable solution to the Rohingya refugee crisis, and the importance of respect for labour and human rights.

Ghana is first nation in world to receive COVAX

Accra: Ghana has become the first country in the world to receive vaccines acquired through the United Nations-backed COVAX initiative with a delivery of 6,000 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine made by the Serum Institute of India.

The vaccines, delivered by UNICEF, arrived at Accra's international airport early Wednesday and are part of the first wave of Covid-19 vaccines being sent by COVAX, an international cooperative programme formed to make sure low- and middle-income countries have fair access to Covid-19 vaccines.

Putin warns of foreign efforts to destabilise Russia

Moscow: Russia's President Vladimir Putin ordered the nation's top counterintelligence agency Wednesday to redouble its efforts to address what he described as Western attempts to destabilise the country.

Speaking at a meeting of top officials of the Federal Security Service, or FSB, the main KGB successor agency, Putin pointed at the "so-called policy of containment of Russia," charging that it includes efforts to "derail our development, slow it down, create problems alongside our borders and undermine the values that unite Russian society."

US to seek election to Human Rights Council for 2022-24 term: Blinken

Washington: Asserting that the Biden administration is placing democracy and human rights at the center of its foreign policy, Secretary of State Tony Blinken announced on Wednesday that the US will seek election to the Human Rights Council for the 2022-24 term, almost three years after it quit the UN's top rights body.

Former President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from the UN's Human Rights Council in June 2018, describing it as a "hypocritical and self-serving organisation" that displayed "unending hostility towards Israel".

The Geneva-based Human Rights Council is a 47-member inter-governmental body within the UN system tasked with upholding human rights.

GLOBE TROTTER

ENGINE BLAST, FIRE KILL 10 AFGHAN CIVILIANS

Kabul: A minivan carrying civilians caught fire on Wednesday after its engine exploded in southern Afghanistan killing 10 family members, including three children, an official said.

SUSPECTED JEHADI REBELS KILL 10 IN NIGERIA

Maiduguri: At least 10 people were killed and about 60 others injured in an attack by suspected jihadist rebels on the northern Nigerian city of Maiduguri, officials said on Wednesday.

THAI COURT OUSTS 3 CABINET MEMBERS

Bangkok: Three Cabinet Ministers in Thailand were forced to leave their posts after a court found them guilty of sedition for taking part in violent protests in 2013-2014 against the Government then in power.

SEARCH FOR MISSING



ANUPA

General public is hereby informed that a female (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Anupa **W/o** Prince **R/o** 143, Village Rajpura, Gurmandi, Delhi has been missing since 12.02.2021 from her house. In this regard a case vide DD No. 43A dated 13.02.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Model Town, Delhi. Her physical description is as under :-

Age: About 32 Years, **Height:** 5'3", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** White colour gown and blue colour jacket & green colour sleeper in feet.

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

SHO
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No: 011-24368639
DP/675/NW/2021

P.S. Model Town, Delhi
North-West Distt., Delhi
Ph. No. 8750870230

SEARCH FOR MISSING



Shahin Parveen

General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Shahin Parveen D/o Mh. Sharif R/o** H.No. H-712, JJ Colony, Shakurpur, Delhi-34 has been missing since 16.02.2021 at 04.00 PM from her residence. In this regard a **FIR No. 64/2021 dated 16.02.2021** has been lodged at PS, Subhash Place, Delhi.

The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: Shahin Parveen, **Father's Name:** Mh. Sharif, **Age:** 16 years, **Height:** 4'9", **Face:** Round, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Orange Colour Suit, Orange Colour Chunnii, Sandles in feet.

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

Website : **http://cbi.nic.in**

SHO
e-mail: **cic@cbi.gov.in**
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641
Extn.-210
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/673/NW/2021

P.S., Subhash Place, Delhi
Ph. : 011-27356336, 27353014,
09871259511, 08750870224

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Bhagwati, **D/o:** Bindeshwar Roy, **R/o:** Village Behrampur, Distt Begusarai, Bihar, **Aged:** 14 years, has been reported missing/ kidnapped from WZ-59, Village Possangipur, Janakpuri, Delhi since 12.02.2021 at 10.00 AM. In this regard a case **FIR No. 44/21 u/s 363 IPC, dated 12.02.2021, has been registered at P.S. Janak Puri, Delhi.**

Her physical description is as under:

Height: 5'2" Feet, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Physique/Built:** Thin, **Clothing:** Brown Colour Sweater, Yellow Colour Salwar and Chapple in her feet.

Any person having any information/clue about this missing/ kidnapped girl, may inform SHO, Janak Puri, Delhi at E-mail : **cic@cbi.gov.in** or website : **http://cbi.nic.in** Tele No. :011-24368638 or 24368641.

S.H.O
P.S. Janak Puri, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25551410, 25553166

DP/3144/WD/2021.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a lady namely **Aarti Devi, W/o** Ajeet Kumar **R/o** Gali No. 4, Bihari Colony, Parnala, Line Par, Bahadur Garh, Haryana has been missing/kidnapped since 02.01.2021 from the area of PS Nangloi, Delhi. In this regard, **DD No. 83A dated 03.01.2021 has been registered at P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped lady but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing/kidnapped lady is as under:

Name: Aarti Devi, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 30 years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Identification:** Mentally weak, **Wearing:** Green colour suit-salwar and slippers on her feet.

If anyone has any information regarding this missing/ kidnapped lady, kindly inform SHO/Nangloi, Delhi.

E-mail: **cic@cbi.gov.in**
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax: 011-24368639
DP/654/OD/2021

SHO
P.S. Nangloi, Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-25949470, 25947225

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

CASE DETAILS	ASSET DETAILS
ICICI Bank Ltd vs INDERJEET KOHLI, Case No-CS (COMM) No 669/2019	Vehicle No-DL8CAN5893, Make and Model-HYUNDAI I 20 ELITE MAGNA, Manu Yr-2016
ICICI Bank Ltd vs RAM SEWAK, Case No-CS No.68/2020 (1934/19)	Vehicle No-UP14FT7944, Make and Model-CHEVROLET BEAT PS PETROL, Manu Yr-2016
ICICI Bank Ltd vs PUNIT, Case No-CS 900/2019	Vehicle No-HR55AA9780, Make and Model-MAHINDRA KUV 100 K4 PLUS D, Manu Yr-2016
ICICI Bank Ltd vs SANJEEV KUMAR, Case No-CS (COMM)2338/19	Vehicle No-DL12B2383, Make and Model-CHEVROLET SAIL LS, Manu Yr-2017
ICICI Bank Ltd vs DALER SINGH, Case No-CS (COMM) No. 1450/2019	Vehicle No-DL8CAU9121, Make and Model-HYUNDAI I-20 SPORTZ DIESEL, Manu Yr-2018
ICICI Bank Ltd vs SUBODH KUMAR, Case No-Suit No 471/17 (ID no 3180 OF 17)	Vehicle No-UP14FT7914, Make and Model-MARUTI ECS VX, Manu Yr-2006
ICICI Bank Ltd vs SAKSHAM KATHURIA, Case No-CS NO 1791/2018	Vehicle No-UP16DT8933, Make and Model-HYUNDAI XCENT, Manu Yr-2016
ICICI Bank Ltd vs CHAND SAIFI, Case No-Cas no- 6/18.	Vehicle No-UP16ET2968, Make and Model-NISSAN GO T, Manu Yr-2016
ICICI Bank Ltd vs SUMIT, Case No-CS no. 2143/2017	Vehicle No-DL1LV2002, Make and Model-TATA ACE, Manu Yr-2014, Reserve price of this vehicle is Rs 90,000 and EMD amount is Rs 9000, DD/PO is to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited payable at Delhi.
ICICI Bank Ltd vs CHAND MOHAMAD, Case No-CS no. 3687/2017	Vehicle No-DL1LV5880, Make and Model-AL DOST, Manu Yr-2015
ICICI Bank Ltd vs AJAY SINGH, Case No-Suit No 912/2017	Vehicle No-DL1LW2931, Make and Model-AL DOST LS, Manu Yr-2015
ICICI Bank Ltd vs NIRAJ KUMAR, Case No-CS (COMM) 1340/2019	Vehicle No-DL9CAM4737, Make and Model- HONDA CITY 1.5 VX MT PETROL, Manu Yr-2016
ICICI Bank Ltd vs NIDHI SHARMA, Case No-CS (Comm) No. 1397/2019	Vehicle No-UP14DU6650, Make and Model-DUSTER RXE DCI - 85 PS HSRAWA, Manu Yr-2018

Auction Date & Time: 05-March-2021, From 11:00 AM To 02:00 PM
Venue: Godara Yard, Khewat No:166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram- 122022.
Contact Person – Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)
And auction of below mentioned one vehicle will be conducted at Shriram Automall

CASE DETAILS	ASSET DETAILS
ICICI Bank Ltd vs KRISHAN PAL, Case No-CS (COMM) 68/20	Vehicle No-UP14HT9010, Make and Model-TATA ULTRA 1518, Manu Yr-2019

Auction Date & Time: 05-March-2021, From 11:00 AM To 02:00 PM
Venue: Shriram Automall, Vill-Mamurpur, P/o Maniyari Road Narela, New Delhi, Narela, Delhi, 110040.
Contact Person – Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)

Terms of Sale

The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participants/ are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves /itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT.

The intending bidders may visit at **ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot no-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi-110085**, for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Vimal Kumar Jain is the absolute owner of Flat no-GS-1/175-A, Ground Floor, Vyas Puri, New Delhi-18 having acquired by Requisitionment Deed dated 06.01.2021 (registration No. 260) executed by Mrs. Kamla Devi Jain, Mrs. Manjula Jain, Mrs. Bhansali Ranjanben Rawonrabhai, Mrs. Anita Bomb and Mr. Sanjeev Jain legal heirs of Late Lakshmi Lal Dab.

All persons having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage(equitable/registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, agency, license, ten, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.

Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)
Shop No. 5 & 6, Pkt-E, CSC, Mayur Vihar-II, Delhi-81
011-43052822, 9981006351

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Bhanu Pratap Singh S/o Sh. Jay Kishore who is purchasing the Residential Plot of Land area measuring 25 Sq. Yds., i.e. 20.90 Sq. Mtrs., out of Khasha No. 344, situated at Vandana Vihar Khoda Colony, Pargana Loni Tehsil & District Ghaziabad, U.P. from Sh. Jay Kishore S/o Sh. Natotam Singh owner vide of Notarized General Power of Attorney dated 06.09.1993 executed by Sh. Ram Lal S/o Sh. Kishan, along with ATS. Will and same to be finance & mortgage by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any Person having any type of claim/right/title/ interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.II, New Delhi-49. Contact #011-40046316

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is to inform to the public at large that Mr. Shiv Prasad Singh S/o Sh. Ali Ansari who is purchasing the Plot of Land Area Measuring 30 Sq. Yds., OUT OF KHASHA No. 266, SITUATED AT SHIV PARK KHODA COLONY, PARGANA LONI TEHSIL & DISTT., GHAZIABAD, U.P. from Mrs. Kamlesh W/o Mr. Rakesh Kumar owner vide of Registered GPA dated 03.07.2017 executed by Mr. Mahesh Kumar S/o Mr. Siya Ram, along with ATS. Will and same to be finance & mortgage by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any Person having any type of claim/right/title/ interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below about his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc.

Lucem Legal LLP
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.II, New Delhi-49. Contact #011-40046316

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo), **Namely:** Sanjeev Sikarwar, **S/o:** Sh. Bachan Singh Sikarwar, **R/o:** H.No. 401-A, Police Housing Complex, Sector 11, Rohini, Delhi, **Aged:** 44 years, has been missing since 17.02.2021 from the area of P.S. Model Town, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 04-A, Dated 19.02.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Model Town, Delhi.** His physical description is as under:

Height: 6' Feet, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Normal, **Clothing:** Light Pink Colour Jacket, Light Green Colour Trouser and Formal Leather Shoes in his feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing male may inform SHO, Model Town, Delhi at E-mail: **cic@cbi.gov.nic.in** or website : **http://cbi.nic.in** Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O
P.S. Model Town, Delhi
Ph.: 011-27456072

DP/680/NW/2021.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -II, DELHI.

4TH FLOOR JEEVAN TARA BUILDING PARLIAMENT STREET NEW DELHI - 110001.
OA No. 408/19 DATE: 20.02.2021
BANK OF INDIA APPLICANT
VERSUS
SIKANDAR ANSARI RESPONDENT
To, DEFENDANT

SIKANDAR ANSARI S/O SH. ALI ANSARI R/O B-160 WEST AZAD NAGAR NEAR BHAGAT SINGH PARK DELHI - 51
ALSO AT: L-42 1ST FLOOR L-BLOCK SECT-12 PARTAP VIHAR GHAZIABAD UP

Whereas the above named applicant (s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 26,81,551/- (RUPEES TWENTY SIX LAKH EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY ONE ONLY) against you and where as it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on 14.06.2021 At 10.30 A.M.

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL, FOR REGISTRAR DRT-II, DELHI.

Pvt banks can do Govt-related business: FM

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The finance ministry on Wednesday allowed all private sector banks to participate in government-related business like collection of taxes pension payments and small savings schemes.

At the moment, only few large private sector are allowed to conduct government-related business.

This step is expected to further enhance customer convenience, spur competition and higher efficiency in the standards of customer services, an official statement said.

"Embargo lifted on grant of Govt business to private banks. All banks can now participate. Private banks can now be equal partners in development of the Indian economy, furthering Govt's social sector initiatives, and enhancing customer convenience," Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said in a tweet.

Private sector banks, which are at the forefront of imbibing and implementing latest technology and innovation in banking, will now be equal partners in development of the Indian economy and in

furthering the social sector initiatives of the government, the statement said.

"With the lifting of the embargo, there is now no bar on RBI for authorization of private sector banks (in addition to public sector banks) for Government business, including Government agency business.

The Government has conveyed its decision to RBI," it added. The government has already announced its intent to privatise two public sector lenders, other than IDBI Bank, in the Budget 2021-22.

Sitharaman, while presenting Budget 2021-22 earlier this month, had announced the privatisation of Public Sector Banks (PSBs) as part of the disinvestment drive to garner Rs 1.75 lakh crore.

"Other than IDBI Bank, we propose to take up the privatisation of two Public Sector Banks and one General Insurance company in the year 2021-22," she had said.

The government last year consolidated 10 public sector banks into four and as a result, the total number of PSBs came down to 12 from 27 in March 2017.

Cabinet approves ₹15,000 cr PLI scheme for pharma sector

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Wednesday approved a production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for the pharmaceutical sector, entailing an outlay of Rs 15,000 crore.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the scheme which will benefit domestic manufacturers, help create employment and is expected to contribute to the availability of a wider range of affordable medicines for consumers. The duration of the

scheme would be from 2020-21 to 2028-29 and is expected to promote the production of high value products in the country and increase the value addition in exports, an official release said. The total incremental sales of Rs 2,94,000 crore and total incremental exports of Rs 1,96,000 crore are estimated during six years from 2022-23 to 2027-28, it added. The scheme is expected to generate 20,000 direct jobs and 80,000 indirect employment for both skilled and unskilled personnel, as a result of growth in the sector, the release said.

Indian corporate bond market can double to ₹65-70 lakh cr by March 2025, says Crisil

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The supply of corporate bonds in the domestic market is expected to double to ₹65-70 lakh crore by fiscal 2025 with the financial sector contributing around 50 per cent to this growth, rating agency Crisil said.

The demand for corporate bonds, however, is likely to be ₹60-65 lakh crore by March 2025.

"Over the next five fiscals, corporate bond issuances outstanding could

more than double from around ₹ 33 lakh crore or 16 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) at the end of fiscal 2020 to ₹65-70 lakh crore – tantamount to 22-24 per cent of GDP – by the end of fiscal 2025," the agency's Managing Director Gurpreet Chhatwal said during a webinar. The financial sector will contribute around 50 per cent of the incremental supply, followed by innovation (close to 25 per cent) and infrastructure (about 20 per cent), the agency said.

RBI concerned over impact of cryptocurrency may have on financial stability, says Das

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is concerned over the impact cryptocurrencies may have on the financial stability in the economy and has conveyed the same to the government, Governor Shaktikanta Das said on Wednesday.

"We have certain major concerns about cryptocurrencies. We have communicated them to the government.

It is under consideration in the government and I do expect and I think sooner or

later the government will take a call and if required Parliament also will consider and decide," he said in an interview with CNBC-TV18.

"I want to make it clear that the blockchain technology is different.

Blockchain technology benefits have to be exploited, that is another thing.

But on crypto we have major concerns from the financial stability angle and we have shared it with the government. The government will consider and take a call," Das said.

Sensex zooms 1,030 pts, Nifty tops 14,950 in extended session

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex soared 1,030.28 points and the Nifty rallied over 270 points on Wednesday, tracking strong buying in financial stocks, after trading hours were extended following a technical glitch at NSE.

After resumption of trade at 3.45 pm, NSE Nifty zoomed 274.20 points or 1.86 per cent to end at 14,982.

Similarly, the 30-share BSE index settled 1,030.28 points or 2.07 per cent higher at 50,781.69.

Axis Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack,

surging around 5 per cent, followed by HDFC twins, ICICI Bank, Bajaj Finance and SBI.

On the other hand, PowerGrid, Dr Reddy's, TCS and Asian Paints were among the laggards.

Minutes before the scheduled closure of trade at 3.30 pm, leading bourses BSE and NSE said their equity and derivatives markets will remain open till 5 pm.

The move came after the National Stock Exchange (NSE) suffered an outage earlier in the day due to technical glitches. Trading across segments came to a halt at 1140 hrs due to connectivity issues.

Rupee firms up 11 paise to close at 72.35 against US dollar

Mumbai: The rupee furthered its gains by another 11 paise to settle at 72.35 against the US dollar on Wednesday amid persistent selling of the greenback by banks and exporters.

Besides, positive domestic equities and weaker American currency in the overseas market also helped the rupee consolidate gains.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 72.35 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 72.26 and a low of 72.41.

Gold falls ₹148, silver declines ₹886

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices on Wednesday fell Rs 148 to Rs 46,307 per 10 grams in the national capital, due to overnight selling in global prices and rupee appreciation, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at Rs 46,455 per 10 grams in the previous session.

Silver also declined Rs 886 to Rs 68,676 per kilogram, compared with the close of Rs 69,562 per kilogram in the previous trade.

Flipkart plans to deploy 25K electric vehicles by 2030

Bengaluru: A day after Amazon India said it has deployed nearly 100 Mahindra Treo Zor three-wheelers, e-commerce marketplace Flipkart on Wednesday said it will deploy more than 25,000 electric vehicles in its supply chain by 2030.

Flipkart said it has already started piloting and deploying two-wheeler and three-wheeler electric vehicles in multiple locations for delivery across the country, including in Delhi, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Guwahati and Pune, to name a few.

I-T refunds worth over ₹1.95 L cr issued so far this fiscal year

New Delhi: The Income Tax Department on Wednesday said it has issued over Rs 1.95 lakh crore worth refunds to over 1.93 crore taxpayers so far this fiscal. Of this, personal income tax refunds of Rs 69,653 crore have been issued to over 1.90 crore taxpayers and corporate tax refunds of Rs 1.26 lakh crore have been issued in 2.17 lakh cases. "CBDT issues refunds of over Rs 1,95,736 crore to more than 1.93 crore taxpayers between 1st April, 2020 to 22nd February, 2021," the I-T Department tweeted.

First 'Made in India' piling rig launched

New Delhi: With aim to boost "Make in India" campaign and reduce India's dependence on construction equipment imports, Sany India launched its first "Made in India" piling rig, "SR235", for all arduous applications, from soft soil to hard rock. "With the launch of our first-ever 'made in India' SR235 piling rig, Sany India has reaffirmed its commitment to the 'vocal for local' initiative," said Sanjay Saxena, vice president & business head, heavy equipment, Sany Heavy Industry India Pvt Ltd.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namely: Anjali, D/o: Satyender, R/o: A-371, Street No. 8, Indra Enclave II, Kirai, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped since **30.01.2021** at 12:00 pm. from the area of P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **FIR No. 80/21 U/s 363 IPC dated 03.02.2021** has been registered at P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi.

The description of the missing girl are as under: **Age: 17 years, Sex: Female, Height: 5'3", Face: Round, Hair: Black, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Strong, Wearing: Pink colour kurti, leggings and pink colour shoes in her feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail Id - cbc@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/690/RD/2021

SHO
P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi
Ph.: 8750870322

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Bhagwati Devi with son Asm (age 11 months) W/o Mangal Singh R/o 203, Gali No.3, Near Shiv Mandir, Ranhola, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped from the area of PS: Ranhola, Delhi since 23.01.2021. In this regard, a case **DD No. 76-A Dated 27.01.2021** has been registered at P.S. Ranhola, Delhi. The description of the missing female are as under.

Age: 23 Years, Complexion: Fair, Height: 5', Face: Round, Wearing: Pink colour sari and sleepers in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/kidnapped female then please inform P.S. Ranhola, New Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: **cic@cbi.gov.in** and Website: **http://cbi.nic.in**, providing clue about the missing girl.

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
Sd/- SHO
PS: Ranhola, Delhi
Ph.: 011-28363002
DP/675/OD/2021

SALE NOTICE

The under mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** and **"AS IS WHAT IS BASIS"** for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-

CASE DETAILS	ASSET DETAILS	Reserve Price	EMD Amount (10% of Reserve Price)
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Ankit Bhadana, Case No- CM (M)- 231/2020	Vehicle No- HR38V7561, Make and Model-HYUNDAI XCENT, Manu Yr- 2015	1,00,000/-	10,000/-
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Lalit Kumar, Case No- CM (M) 536/2020 & CM Appl. 27473/2020	Vehicle No- UP14CD4738, Make and Model- MARUTI ALTO 800 LXI CNG, Manu Yr- 2014	50,000/-	5,000/-
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Archana Raj, Case No- CM (M) 573/2020 & CM Appl. 29273/2020	Vehicle No- UP14ET7203, Make and Model- CHEVROLET ENJOY LT, Manu Yr- 2015	60,000/-	6,000/-
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Mohd Adil, Case No- CM (M) 599/2020 & CM Appl. 30342/2020	Vehicle No- UP14CS9040, Make and Model- MARUTI SWIFT DZIRE, Manu Yr- 2015	1,80,000/-	18,000/-
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Mehkar Singh, Case No- CM (M) 549/2020 & CM Appl. 27986/2020	Vehicle No- UP16DT4118, Make and Model- CHEVROLET ENJOY, Manu Yr- 2015	1,60,000/-	16,000
ICICI Bank Ltd Vs Subodh Kumar, Case No- CM (M) 602/2020 & CM Appl. 30659/2020	Vehicle No- UP14FT6208, Make and Model- RENAULT LODGY RXE, Manu Yr- 2016	1,80,000/-	18,000/-

Auction Date : 06-March-2021
Venue: Godara Yard, Khewat No: 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhrali, Gurugram- 120222.
Contact Person – Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)
EMD: DD/PO of EMD amount to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited, payable at Delhi.
Contact Person – Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)
Terms of Sale
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves/ itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at site with original DD/PO of EMD amount along with original KYC proofs to participate in the auction.
Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount) within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited.
The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Center, Plot no-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi-110085, for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.

Rajasthan Skill and Livelihoods Development Corporation

राजस्थान कौशल एवं आजीविका विकास निगम
A Government of Rajasthan Enterprise
EMI Campus, J-8-A, Jhalana Institutional Area, Jaipur 302004 (Rajasthan)
Ph: +91-141-2705917, 5103248, Fax: +91-141-5103246, www.rajasthanlivelihoods.org

RFP No: RSLDC/Services (DDU-GKY)/8.75C/OCB/2020/30222-227 Date- 22.02.2021

Notice Inviting Request for Proposals

Managing Director, Rajasthan Skills & Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC)
Dept. of Skill, Govt. of Rajasthan, invites proposals (Single Bid Two Envelope System) from reputed and experienced Agencies for Selection of a competent and qualified bidder providing services of manpower at Block Level for various Skill Development Schemes of Rajasthan Skills & Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC) for effective Implementation and Monitoring of DDU-GKY Scheme in Rajasthan through deployment of Human Resources at State as well as at District & Block Levels.

The Proposal has to be submitted through online mode on <https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in> and can be searched by clicking the Tab "Bid Free View" on home page of above website and then going to Live Bid/ Hot Bid by searching Department Name as "RSLDC". UBN No. SLD2021RFP0001
Raj.Samwadi/C/20/10191 Managing Director

DELHI JAL BOARD

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER WEST-III

NANGLOI PH-III: NEAR BARAT GHAR: NEW DELHI-110041

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

N.I.T. No. 35 WEST-III/ (2020-21)

S. No.	Description	Amount put to tender	Tender Fee	Earnest Money	Date of release of tender in e procurement solution	Last date/time for tender download through e procurement solution
1	Improvement of water supply system by Replacement of old damaged water line from Metro Pillar no 750 to 768 on Najafgarh Road in Uttam Nagar AC 32 under EE (West) III.	Rs. 25.42,641/-	Rs.500/-	NIL (Declaration to be filled)	23.02.2021 I.D. No 2021_DJB 200454_1	12.03.2021 at 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at (<http://govtprocurement.delhi.gov.in>.)

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER)
Advt. No. J.S.V. 439 (2020-21)

Sd/-
EX. ENGINEER (WEST) III
ASHOK KUMAR
EE (WEST) III

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General Public is hereby informed that one boy namely Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o** Unknown, **Age:** About 5 years, **Height:** 3', **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, wearing Fancy Blue Jeans Shirt and Khaki colour Half Pant and Yellow colour Slipper in feet, was found abandoned at Main Bazar, Pahar Ganj, Delhi on 17.08.2020 at about 10:30 PM. The is Child kept in CHG-IIIrd, Quarantine Center, Nari Niketan Building, Unit-I, Nirmal Chhaya, Delhi. In this regard a **DD No. 123A, dated 17.08.2020** has been registered at **P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi**.

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

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/663/CD/2021

SHO
P.S. Pahar Ganj, Delhi
Ph: 8750012525, 8750042525

SEARCH FOR MISSING



General public is here by informed that this person (depicted in the photo) namely: **Vikash S/o Moti Lal Maharaj R/o L-17, Gali No.24, Mahendra Park, Delhi** has been missing/ kidnapped from the jurisdiction of P.S. Mahendra Park since 16.02.2020. In this regard DD No.47A Dated **18.02.2020** has been registered at **PS. Mahendra Park, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the person but no clue has come to light so far.

His physical description is as under:-
Sex: Male, **Age:** 29 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Purple Colour T-shirt and Black colour Capri.

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

SHO
P.S. Mahendra Park, Delhi
Ph. No. : 011-27632501
Mob. No.: 8750870227
DP/677/NW/2021

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one child/boy namely **Raj, S/o Sh. Murari, R/o Bal Sahyog, Connaught Circus, Opposite L Block Market, New Delhi, Age: 8 years, Height: 4', Hair: Black Normal, Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Green Linedaar Shirt, Blue Sweater, Blue Pant and Black Colour shoes in his feet and putting cap on his head** has been missing/kidnapped from the jurisdiction of P.S. Barakhamba Road, New Delhi District on **27.11.2017**. In this regard a case **FIR No. 182/17 U/s 363 IPC, dated 28.11.2017** has been registered at **P.S. Barakhamba Road, New Delhi**.

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

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.nic.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/228/NDD/2021

SHO
P.S. Barakhamba Road, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-23413800, 8750870527

SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN




General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Sandhya **W/o Karan Singh R/o B-104, Rajeev Nagar, Begumpur, Delhi Age : 21 years, Height : 5'1", Complexion : Fair, Face : Oval, wearing blue colour shirt and grey colour jeans, has been missing since 10.02.2021. In this regard DD No. 7-A, dated 11.02.2021** has been lodged at **P.S. Begumpur, Delhi**.

Any person having any information or clue about this missing woman and her son may kindly inform to the following.

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

SHO : P.S. Begumpur, Delhi
Ph. : 011-25951431, 25951432
DP/684/RD/21

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person **Namely : Khem Chand S/o Unknown R/o Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi Age : about 50 years, Height : 5'6", Complexion : Wheatish, Wearing : White colour shirt and grey colour pant** has been found in burned condition at Baba Balak Nath Mandir, Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi on 20.02.2021. He brought to LNJP Hospital, Delhi, where during treatment he died on 20.02.2021. In this regard a case vide DD No. 07A dated 20.02.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi.

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

SHO :
P.S. Old Delhi Railway Station, Delhi
DP/68/RLY/2021
Tel. No. 011-23961522, 23980685

SEARCH FOR MISSING FEMALE



General public is hereby informed that one female namely **Soni (along with her son age 8 months) W/o Sunny, R/o House No. B-2/101, Sector-20 Rohini, Delhi. Age 23 yrs., Height 5', Shallow Complexion, Thin built, Round face, wearing red colour suit-salwar** is missing since **01.02.2021** from the area of **PS Aman Vihar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing female but no clue has come to light so far.

In this regard a **DD No. 83-A Dt. 03.02.2021** has been lodged at **PS Aman Vihar, Delhi**. Any person having any information or clue about this missing female may kindly inform to the following.

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
Ph.: 011-23014046
011-23015218
DP/688/RD/2021

S.H.O., PS Aman Vihar, Delhi.
Ph.: 011-27581812, 27581223

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION



The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 40-45 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found dead near Jai Mata Dharamkant, C-Block, Prem Nagar-1, Delhi. In this regard, a vide has been registered with **DD No: 45A, dated 08.02.2021 at PS Prem Nagar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far.

The description of the UIDB is as under:
Sex: Male, **Age:** about 40-45 years, **Height:** 5'8", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue colour jacket, multi-colour jersey, grey colour shirt, blue colour vest, blue colour underwear.

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

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax : 011-24368639
DP/696/RD/2021

SHO
P.S. Prem Nagar, Delhi.
Ph. No. 011-25489080, 9315164042

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

See Section 82 Cr.P.C.

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused person **Sachin S/o Prakash R/o A-Block, Near Quereshi Meat Shop, Sudarshan Park, Basai Dara Pur, Delhi** has been committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 169/19, U/s 381 IPC** has been registered at **P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said **Sachin** cannot be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said **Sachin** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said **Sachin** accused of **FIR No. 169/19, U/s 381 IPC, P.S. Kirti Nagar, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer said complaint on or before **12.04.2021**.

By Order
Dr. Jagminder Singh, Chief Metropolitan Magistrate,
West Distt. Room No. 146, 1st Floor,
Tis Hazari Courts, Delhi
DP/346/WD/2021-(Court Matter)

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

Virtual assistants extend desired value to consumers with a human touch. MAAZ ANSARI explains how chatbot helps in instant, personal and contextual conversations

Welcome! I am a chat helper. You can start a new chat or scroll up to see previous chats.” You must have noticed these words often popping up in the bottom right section of your screen. A thought might’ve surfaced in your head, “Ah, so I have a companion for my queries.” Of course, you do! But, it isn’t a human being. It is a cognitive bot that utilises natural language to simulate conversations. It is one of the wonders of modern technology.

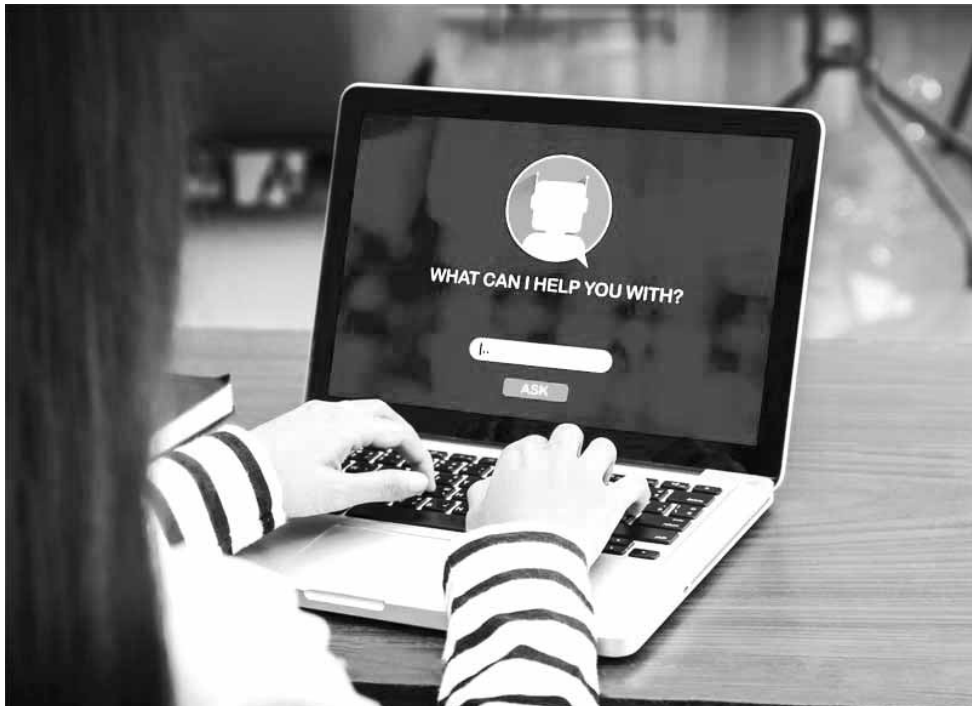
Leveraging state-of-the-art technology, these virtual assistants extend desired value to consumers with a human touch. They can also gauge diverse human emotions and intentions, thereby communicating while building on them accurately.

Consumers today are not merely looking for a product or a service, rather user experience. People look for easier ways to communicate with brands and services. It is because we are living in a world where everything is fast-paced. There’s no time to fill out a form and wait till someone calls us back. We need answers to our queries immediately.

Chatbots turn out to be the much-needed alternative that consumers can engage with. And that’s making more businesses realise that they should buckle up soon. They must deploy chatbots if they haven’t already. Keeping this in mind, let’s look at why there is a need to integrate a cognitive virtual assistant or chatbot into a business.

Automate customer support

In this era of digitisation, more people now dwell online. There is a high possibility that most of your potential customers going forward will discover your



business online rather than physically. They might simply search ‘nearby services’ on Google rather than asking a bystander. So, it may lead people to interact with businesses solely through digital platform or via digital platforms first.

In fact, customers are getting smarter and tend to stick with solutions that are qualitative and, at the same time, simple to use. Naturally, chatbots have become necessary and emerged as an easy solution to respond to similar and repetitive queries at no incremental costs. With deep learning, this can further be scaled to understand complex queries and initiate interactions. It will also help you achieve a stronger customer base and offer customised solutions and support.



Ensure 24/7 availability

Customers shopping online don’t have a specific time to shop. It is more likely that they’ll visit your website at a time convenient to them, which may possibly be at odd-hours of the day or night. At this moment, chatbots have become more relevant. They respond to customers in real-time

while providing them valuable insights about the product and your brand at your customers’ convenience. If you are a digital business and cater to a wide audience base, having a cognitive bot is of paramount importance for you. It will help you considerably scale your customer interactions across different geographies and time-zones. .

Boost conversions and sales

Once you start getting traffic on your platform, why not use friendly chatbots to engage these visitors? Easy and quick interaction that clear multiple doubts will help you to turn potential traffic into loyal customers. Additionally, helping users find what they are looking for faster, easier, and

with minimal effort is a win-win not only for your customers but also for your business.

Chatbot-powered conversational ads

Conversational advertising allows instant, personal, and real-time engagement with customers at the very beginning of the sales funnel. It allows businesses to capture focussed leads, thereby increasing the probability of conversions. By using an AI-powered chatbot, the whole process of marketing and sales can now be automated. Smart conversational marketing technologies can equip your advertisement with a chatbot, wherein a consumer interacts with your ad and your chatbot answers their queries.

Personalised and contextual conversations

For every business, ‘Customer is the King’ and improving customer experience is an integral part of any business strategy. In today’s world, personalisation is increasingly becoming the norm and customers expect a certain level of personalisation. That’s why investing in personalisation is the key to building business relationships, building a resonance with your audience and creating a better brand impression & brand experience. Well, this is where cognitive bots fit in and play a vital role in customer acquisition and retention. They can predict precisely what the customer is seeking and proactively suggest options based on the customers’ likes, dislikes, hobbies, interests, and other parameters. These factors can also be translated into actionable insights that help brands enhance their Customer Relationship Management (CRM) for better re-

targeting and conversions.

Real-time customer feedback

It is no surprise that an e-commerce assistant knows your right apparel size and even your most preferred hue of blue. But how? A chatbot-supported cognitive conversation helps businesses collect feedback and maintain a database of everything you adore or may need in the future. It is done simply by using your previous purchases and wishlists. So, you no longer need to get feedback forms filled by your trusted customers.

Cross-platform support in preferred languages

Chatbots are bringing a new way for businesses to communicate with the world and most importantly with their customers. With a multi-channel approach, customers can message you directly from Google Search results. Today, businesses are enabling their online customers to converse with them anytime from anywhere and pick up the same conversation from their app, WhatsApp, or other social channels. It turns out to be a highly effective approach.

As we can see, bots are becoming an integral part of almost every business. In addition to increasing business opportunities with humanised, intent-based conversational experiences, they also let you provide anytime, anywhere support to their customers. Thus, cognitive chatbots must be a part of your businesses’ operations across the value chain — from advertisement to sales to post sales support.

(The writer is co-founder and CEO of an end-to-end provider of conversational AI-powered chatbots, Ori.)

‘My work is immortalised’

Actor PARINEETI CHOPRA’s artist-mother has made a painting to celebrate her forthcoming release *The Girl On The Train*

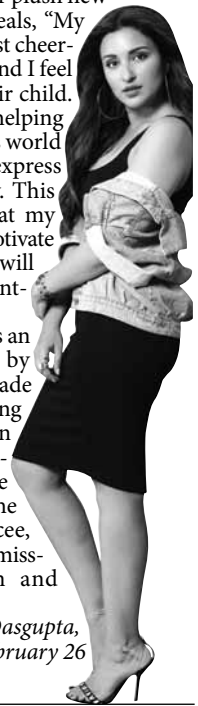
Actor Parineeti Chopra is feeling extremely proud because her mother, noted artist Reena Chopra, has made a special painting to commemorate her forthcoming release *The Girl On The Train (TGOTT)*. The painting showcases a girl standing in front of a speeding yellow train, much like Pari’s character in the film.

“My mother surprised me with this painting. I was not at all aware that she was making this for me. As most know that my mother is a professional painter and she sells her artwork but this one won’t be sold as it is very precious. She has immortalised my work in *TGOTT* through her art. This is the sweetest, warmest and most special gift that I have ever received from her,” says Parineeti and goes on to add, “She has never done this for any of my films before, so this shows the impact this film has had on her. I’m overwhelmed.”

Parineeti’s parents are the biggest pillars of strength for her and she has made special plans to put up this painting in her plush new house in Mumbai. She reveals, “My parents have been my biggest cheerleaders all through my life and I feel incredibly special to be their child. She has been my pole star, helping me navigate my path in this world and I don’t have words to express what I’m feeling right now. This precious painting will be at my home and will constantly motivate me to do more films which will get her to do more such paintings for me!”

The Girl On The Train is an acclaimed book written by Paula Hawkins. It was made into a Hollywood film starring Emily Blunt in the lead in 2016. In the Bollywood version, Parineeti plays the eponymous girl taking the train, an alcoholic divorcee, who becomes involved in a missing person investigation and uncovers deeper secrets.

(Directed by Ribhu Dasgupta, the film will premiere on February 26 on Netflix.)



TREND TOOL

The perfect routine

Here are seven effective ways to tackle maskne

The new normal has called for us to diligently abide by wearing face masks. While masks remain an absolute essential, they also have a downside. ‘Maskne’ or mask-related acne is an umbrella of skincare problems, caused by wearing a mask as we step outdoors. The impurities on the face beneath the mask slowly build up, as we breathe in and out of the confined area, creating problems, predominantly that of acne, redness, clogged pores, irritation and so much more.

Here are a few suggestions one must follow to prevent the recurrence of maskne. Amazon Beauty, features a range of products which will help you fight against maskne.

Minimal skincare routine

Sometimes less is more, even when it comes to curating a skincare routine. Using too many products at once can lower the impact of the quality products and cause the skin woes to aggravate. To prevent and cure the new issue of maskne, following a simple daily routine of cleanse, tone, mask, sunscreen and moisturise, is always advisable.

Daily cleansing

It is essential to wash your face regularly, especially once you return from the daily grind of the day. Using a mild, fragrance free cleanser is highly recommended when tackling issues like acne. Mild cleansers help maintain the moisture of your skin while removing the built-up impurities.



Hydrate — Don’t strip

One needs to be sure while selecting the right formula to treat ‘maskne’ at its best, while keeping the skin hydrated to minimise the chances of further breakouts. Choose a niacinamide infused serum, as it helps effectively treat issues like acne. It also helps unclog the pores and gives your skin an instant boost of rejuvenation.

Moisturise and nourish

Alongside the natural oils that the face produces, the skin also requires a protective layer of hydration and nourishment. Using a moisturiser is mandatory, even if you choose a minimal skincare routine. It is best advised to use mattifying or gel-based moisturisers for acne-prone skin.

Focus on minimal make-up

While choosing your desired make-up look, focus on bringing in the limelight to your eyes. Steer away from applying excessive face make-up within the mask area, as breathing in and out within the restrictive area causes

chemicals from the make-up products to seep into the pores of the skin. This in-turn causes massive breakouts on the face, leading to a severe case of maskne.

Avoid touching your face

As the emphasis on not touching our faces due to COVID remains stringent, an added reason to abstain from doing so would be to minimise the chances of additional bacteria sustaining on the face. This would further prevent breakouts, itchiness and redness caused by the impurities present on our skin, further leading to our main concern.

Switch your masks

One of the main reasons for maskne to remain persistent is that we seldom change our masks. When we wear a mask, the area underneath the fabric becomes moist and warm, further contributing to blemish forming. Ensure that you do not compromise on changing your masks on a weekly basis, or as and when you step out.

We may be living in times when dating is all about ‘right swipes,’ ‘right words,’ and ‘being woke.’ But old-fashioned love still hasn’t lost its charm. Many still believe in the idea of enjoying a nice film with their date while others wouldn’t think twice before serenading their love with heartfelt sonnets, songs and flowers. QuackQuack, an online dating app, released insights into how Indians are looking at dating in the forthcoming year, after having been stricken by the global pandemic. Results show that desi singles are still holding onto that thing called ‘love’ and intend to tread that path, but with precautions.

The year 2020 has been an unprecedented one. As the basic need to connect with other humans amplified during and after lockdown, more people flocked to the popular dating apps to fill that void. In an era when video calls are making it easy for us to see our partner located oceans away from us, 65 per cent still prefer to engage in longer text conversations that help them express themselves better, akin to writing long love letters back in the day. Out of the lot, women make up the major chunk with 90.8 per cent preferring to text over video call. Surprisingly, 60 per cent of people hailing from metros/bigger cities also come within the category of people preferring long text messages over quick video calls.

Simultaneously, in the backdrop of the ongoing health crisis, Indian millennials aren’t letting their guard down. 60 per cent of people in the age bracket of 18-30 wear a mask when meeting their date as they still consider themselves at risk of contracting the virus. Amongst these, women are more cautious with 90 per cent stating that they never forget to wear a mask on a date. About 74 per cent of top city people and 66 per cent of small-city folks tend to follow precautions more rigidly and prefer to wear a mask on dates to ensure their safety.

Speaking about dating people from native city or a different city, nearly 68 per cent of people aged 31 and above



Love Aaj Kal

A survey reveals that many Indians prefer old school dates and mushy romance where a similar taste in food is the most favoured common ground that people are looking for

prefer dating from their location to avoid the risk of travelling as against majority youngsters who did prefer dating people from their location but were open to the idea of dating from other cities as well. Out of these, women (52 per cent) were more curious to meet people from other cities as compared to men who would still prefer dating from their own location. People from big cities (66 per cent) were more cautious in this regard as against those from smaller cities (58 per cent) who are more enthusiastic about dating from far off cities as well.

But surprises don’t stop just there. Known for their love for food, about

64 per cent of Indians feel that matching food taste matters as having similar food taste is a sign of great compatibility, with women (66 per cent) attaching higher importance to it compared to men (61 per cent). Majority placed in the age group of 31 and above prefer watching films over web series on their date, with women being more in number (65 per cent). Dating is also a way to move on for many. More than 70 per cent of people from both top cities and smaller cities/towns would go ahead and meet new people to get over toxic relationships. They consider meeting new people and having more choices to pick from would get them

a compatible partner.

“Despite having spent the entire last year in gloom and doom, Indians are still keeping their hopes alive in the new year and haven’t given up on the idea of finding love. The most interesting part of the survey has been the finding that many are still in for old school dates and mushy romance, with films and matching food taste topping the list of similarities that they are looking for. It is heartening to see that people are open to traveling across cities and trying new experiences for the sake of companionship. Dating apps sure have been a blessing in disguise for many given the current circumstances,” says Ravi Mittal, Founder & CEO, QuackQuack.

Dating apps have even proven to be a meaningful exercise for many. About 25 per cent of those aged 31 and above said that meeting new people online helped them overcome loneliness and 15 per cent got over depression in 2020. Looking at these trends, it can be said that the Indian dating scenario is definitely going to catch more steam in the times to come.

DREW SHARES TEENAGE EXPERIENCES

Hollywood actor **DREW BARRYMORE** was admitted to a psychiatric ward as a teenager when she went out of control. She recalls the time she spent in a padded room.

Drew’s mother, Jaid Barrymore admitted her to a facility when she was 13 because her behaviour was getting out of control.



AMITABH HINTS AT NEW BEGINNINGS

Bollywood icon **AMITABH BACHCHAN** on Wednesday spoke of new beginnings, dropping hint that a big announcement is in the offing.

Big B penned a rhyme with names of his forthcoming films like *Chehre, Jhund* and *Brahmastra*, and wrote about following up these projects with something new. He tweeted in Hindi: “*Chehre Jhund Brahmastra hai kuch aane wale pal, jald shuru honge kuch aur, futenge nariyal!*”

He also shared a photograph where he can be seen playing football.

fairtalk

RAGHAV JUJAL



‘The journey is on right track now. As an actor I am very initial and I am doing a lot of things. As a host, it has been several years for me but I am enjoying the process and the journey. I love what I do and I make it playful. I think that is the best part about me. I don’t take things seriously. My job is to entertain, so I try to make the atmosphere around me playful too.’

dailytalk

ROHAN MEHRA



‘On Television, your looks will decide the kind of roles you will get. If you look good, you will get a rich boy or college stud type of role. But when I saw the film *Lagaan*, I felt that Aamir Khan doesn’t look poor but his acting in the film convinced everyone. So I believe that if your look doesn’t convince the audience, your acting should.’

Patel dominates at Motera

Axar's 6/38 dismantle England for 112 runs before Rohit's fifty cuts lead

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Axar Patel's devastating six-wicket haul bundled England out for 112 before Rohit Sharma's languid elegance shone through in an unbeaten half century that handed India the edge on the opening day of the day-night third Test here on Wednesday.

The spin combination of left-arm Patel and off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin exploited the turning Motera pitch at the newly-inaugurated Narendra Modi stadium to the full and England's first innings folded in just 48.4 overs after the visitors opted to bat.

Patel (21.4-6-38-6) grabbed his second five-for in his second Test while Ashwin (16-6-26-3) took three.

At stumps, India were 99 for 3 from 33 overs with Rohit batting on 57 off 82 balls. Ajinkya Rahane (1) was giving him company following skipper Virat Kohli's dismissal in the last over of the day.

Kohli was dismissed for 27 off 58 balls by left-arm spinner Jack Leach (10-1-27-2).

India trailed by just 13 runs with seven first innings wickets in hand.

Before this, it was a nightmare that unfolded for England with the 47-run stand for the third wicket being their best.

They lost their last six wickets in the second session. The last seven wickets yielded just 38 runs.

This was after Ishant Sharma, only the second Indian fast bowler after Kapil Dev to play in 100 Tests, fittingly took India's first wicket in the third over to open the floodgates for



3rd Test. Day 2
Live from 2:30pm IST
STAR SPORTS 1 NETWORK

the hosts.

In reply to a below par score, India negotiated the opening spells of much-vaunted England seamers James Anderson and Stuart Broad without any damage in the tricky twilight period. Rohit and Shubman Gill (11) did not face too much trouble seeing out the precarious phase.

Anderson and Broad did not get much the desired movement with the pink ball and the dew factor did not have a big role either.

But Jofra Archer (5-2-24-1) gave England the breakthrough

in the 15th over with Gill, trying a pull shot from the off stump, top-edged for Zak Crawley to end the 33-run opening partnership.

India lost another wicket soon after in Cheteshwar Pujara with Leach getting him trapped LBW for a first-ball duck to reduce India to 34 for 2.

After that, Rohit and Virat shared 64 runs for the third wicket, rotating the strike and finding the gaps as well for regular boundaries. Kohli was dropped by Ollie Pope when he was on 24. Pope also put down

a difficult chance to dismiss Rohit when the batsman was on 52.

Earlier, after Ishant had taken the first wicket, it was an Ashwin and Patel show as the duo bamboozled the England batsmen to complete the submission. Crawley (53 off 84 balls) was the lone exception and hit a delectable half-century.

Crawley's brilliance was, however, neutralised by the Indian spinners as England were left reeling at 81 for 4 going into tea after an exciting opening session.

Two wickets fell in as many overs after the resumption of the second session, with

Ashwin and Patel taking one each, to reduce England to 81 for 6.

Ashwin sent Pope's (1) off-stump cart-wheeling with a beauty of a delivery, bowling round the wicket, before Patel trapped Ben Stokes (6) LBW in the next over with a ball that spun in.

Jofra Archer (11) did a tad better as he hit a four off the second ball he faced and another boundary off Ashwin. But Patel dismissed him soon, cleaning up his off-stump to send England innings into a mess.

Padikkal's career-best 152 hands Karnataka big win

PTI ■ BENGALURU

Talented opening batsman Devdutt Padikkal continued his sizzling form to notch up a List A career-best score of 152 to help defending champions Karnataka register a massive 101-run win over Odisha in a Group E match of the Vijay Hazare Trophy here on Wednesday.

The 20-year-old opener smashed five sixes and 14 fours en route to his third List A century in his 16th game to propel Karnataka to 329 for five after being invited to bat at the KSCA Ground 3 in Alur.

The Royal Challengers Bangalore opener paced his innings brilliantly, taking 55 balls to reach his half-century and 119 deliveries for his ton.

But he took off in the final 10 overs as he cracked 52 runs off his last 21 balls to cruise to his maiden 150 off 138 deliveries.

Padikkal now has 301 runs from three matches, averaging 100.33 with scores of 52 and 97 in the first two matches.

In reply, Odisha were bowled out for 228 in 44 overs with Prasidh Krishna and Sheyas Gopal grabbing three wickets each to hand Karnataka their second win from three matches to move to second spot in the standings.

In another Group E match, Kerala defeated Railways by seven runs in a high-scoring thriller at the Just Cricket Academy to register their third win on the trot and consolidate their position atop the table.

Veteran opener Robin Uthappa (100 from 104 balls; 8x4s, 5x6s) cracked his second century from three matches in company of fellow opener Vishnu Vinod (107 from 107b;



5x4s, 4x6s) before Sanju Samson took charge with an explosive 61 to power Kerala to a massive 351

for 6.

Samson, who was appointed Rajasthan Royals skipper after they parted ways with Steve Smith, clobbered six fours and four sixes in his 29-ball knock, while Vathsal Govind remained unbeaten on a 34-ball 46 (2x4s, 3x6s).

Half-centuries from Mrunal Devdhar, Arindam Ghosh, Saurabh Singh and Harsh Tyagi meant the match went down to the wire.

But medium pacer MD Nidheesh (3/83) took two wickets — Amit Mishra and Tyagi — in successive balls in the last over to take Kerala over the line in a dramatic finish.

Baroda continue winning streak

SURAT: Baroda continued their winning streak in the Vijay Hazare Trophy after beating Hyderabad by 110 runs in their Elite Group A match, courtesy Kedar Devdhar's hundred and impressive show by the bowlers.

This is Baroda's third win on the trot after they had defeated Goa and Tripura.

Put into bat at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium, Barode rode on Devdhar's stroke-filled 131 to post a competitive 316/7 on the board, and then bundled out the opposition for 206, with Babashafi Pathan (3/37) doing the bulk of the damage.

Devdhar was back among the runs as he tore apart the Hyderabad attack with his 139-ball innings, hammering 14 boundaries and two maximums.

PUNJAB BEAT ANDHRA

In Group B matches at Indore, Punjab bounced back from back-to-back defeats to

beat Andhra by seven wickets to register their first win.

Punjab skipper Mandeep Singh won the toss and sent Andhra in to bat. A disciplined bowling effort from Punjab meant Andhra innings never had the momentum. Kaul picked up four wickets while left-arm medium-pacer Barinder Sran took three as Andhra were bowled out for 175 in the 49th over.

Chasing the target, Mandeep starred with an unbeaten 64 (81 balls, 8 fours) to take Punjab home in 36 overs and register their first win in the tournament.

In the second match of the group, Tamil Nadu, the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy winners, suffered their second defeat in the tournament after losing by 11 runs to Madhya Pradesh.

In the third game, Jharkhand beat Vidarbha by three wickets to top the standings with three wins from as many games. **PTI**



India's veteran fast bowler Ishant Sharma on Wednesday was accorded a guard of honour by his teammates ahead of his landmark 100th Test match before the start of 1st day play of 3rd Test between India and England at Narendra Modi Cricket stadium in Ahmedabad on Wednesday **BCCI/Twitter**

President inaugurates Narendra Modi stadium

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

India's president on Wednesday inaugurated the world's largest cricket arena here, renamed from Sardar Patel stadium to Narendra Modi stadium in honour of the Prime Minister who is credited with conceptualising the facility in its current awe-inspiring form.

The state-of-the-art stadium, inaugurated by President Ram Nath Kovind, can accommodate a jaw-dropping 1.32 lakh spectators.

"This stadium was conceptualised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi when he was Chief Minister of Gujarat. He was president of the Gujarat Cricket Association at that time," Kovind said in his address after the inauguration.

The renaming of the stadium was kept under wraps until after it was formally inaugurated.

"It represents India's aspirations and strength. India is called hub of cricket, so it is appropriate that we have the largest stadium. It will give India a new identity," Kovind said.

Also present on the occasion was Home Minister Amit Shah and Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju along with a host of other dignitaries.

"We have decided to name it after the country's Prime Minister. It was Modi ji's dream project," said Shah after the inauguration.

The President also performed the ground-breaking ceremony for a sports complex in the stadium, to be named Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel sports enclave, for disciplines like football, hockey, basketball, kabaddi, boxing, and lawn tennis among others.



President Ram Nath Kovind and Union Home Minister Amit Shah during the Bhumi Pujan of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave at Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad **PTI**

Ahmedabad will emerge as India's sports city: Amit Shah

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that Ahmedabad in Gujarat would emerge as the country's "sports city" as world-class facilities for all kinds of games are being put in place here.

Shah made the statement after President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Narendra Modi stadium.

The president also performed the ground-breaking ceremony of a sports complex in the stadium, to be named Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave, for disciplines like football, hockey, basketball, kabaddi, boxing, and lawn tennis among others.

Shah said that a complex spread over an area of 17 acres of area with world-class facilities



for different sports will also come up in Naranpura area of Ahmedabad.

"The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Sports Enclave, the Narendra Modi stadium and the sports complex at Naranpura will offer complete facilities within the same city at the same place for any sports played internationally. With all these facilities, Ahmedabad will

be in a position to get ready within six months to host any international sports event," Shah said.

The minister said that the sports enclave will be available to play all the games that are played in Olympics, and it will have stadiums for football and hockey as well as an indoor stadium.

"Such sports facilities are not available in any other city in India at present. Ahmedabad, which Modiji transformed into India's heritage city, is now ready to become the country's sports city...Ahmedabad will be considered as India's sports city."

"With such sports infrastructure, Ahmedabad will be known as India's sports city, which is the dream that Prime Minister Narendra Modiji saw when he was the chief minister of Gujarat," Shah said.

Woods seriously injured in roll-over car crash



Workers move a vehicle after a rollover accident involving golfer Tiger Woods on Tuesday in Rancho Palos Verdes, a suburb of Los Angeles **AP**

AFF ■ LOS ANGELES

Tiger Woods suffered serious injuries to both legs as his car flew off the road on Tuesday near Los Angeles in a crash he was "very fortunate" to survive, law enforcement officials who found the US golf legend said.

Woods did not appear to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol during the early-morning incident, and underwent surgery after the roll-over collision, said Los Angeles County Sheriff Alex Villanueva.

No other vehicles or passengers were involved in the crash which occurred on a steep stretch of road known as a "hotspot" for high-speed accidents in recent years.

"I will say that it's very fortunate that Mr Woods was able to come out of this alive," said deputy Carlos Gonzalez, the first law enforcement official to arrive on scene.

Gonzalez found Woods trapped in his vehicle but conscious, appearing "calm and lucid" and able to identify himself.

"It is my understanding that he had serious injuries to

both legs," said Los Angeles County fire chief Daryl Osby.

Firefighters and paramedics extricated Woods from the wreckage of his SUV and transported him with a neck collar and backboard to a local hospital via road, where he underwent surgery.

There was "no evidence of impairment at this time" including any influence of narcotics, medication or alcohol, said Villanueva, adding that the crash remained "subject to investigation."

He added that no blood was drawn at the scene of the crash because the sheriff's office does not have that capability.

Woods, one of the most successful golfers of all time, has won 15 major golf championships.

He recently underwent his fifth back surgery, and said he was uncertain if he will be able to play at the upcoming Masters, which he last won in 2019.

Woods, 45, was in the area for his annual Genesis Invitational golf tournament at the Riviera Country Club, and was driving a courtesy car on the morning of the crash.

Advantage Chelsea

Giroud's bicycle kick gives Blues edge over Atletico

AFF ■ BUCHAREST

Olivier Giroud's magnificent bicycle kick broke Atletico Madrid's resistance and earned Chelsea a crucial away goal on Tuesday, a 1-0 victory giving Thomas Tuchel's side a slender advantage in the Champions League last 16.

Giroud's acrobatic strike was initially ruled out for offside but stood after VAR showed Mario Hermoso had got the final touch, delivering a huge blow to Atletico's hopes of reaching the quarter-finals.

"I didn't know what to think about the goal, I just focused on hitting the ball," said Giroud. "I love an overhead kick and I was just pleased to see the ball hit the back of the net. I had no clue about being



Olivier Giroud scores for Chelsea against Atletico Madrid in CL game **UEFA/Twitter**

offside or not." Diego Simeone's side had put on a typically disciplined

defensive performance until that point but Giroud's moment of genius means they will have

to score in London on March 17 if they are to avoid an early exit.

It also continues a worrying dip for Atletico, whose lead in La Liga is also under threat after one win in four matches.

Chelsea, meanwhile, passed their biggest test since Tuchel was appointed at the end of January, backing up a strong run against lesser lights in the Premier League with a polished display against one of Europe's elite.

Giroud's goal in the 68th minute was only the third Atletico have conceded in 14 home legs of the Champions League knockout stages under Simeone, even if this fixture was at home only in name.

Their defeat makes it three home losses out of three for Spain's teams in the Champions League last 16 so far, after Barcelona were thrashed by Paris Saint-Germain and Sevilla were beaten by Borussia Dortmund last week.

Bayern rout Lazio

AFF ■ ROME

Holders Bayern Munich brushed off their recent poor domestic form by throwing down a Champions League marker with an emphatic 4-1 win at Lazio in Tuesday's last-16 first leg to take a "huge step" towards the quarter-finals.

Robert Lewandowski gave Bayern an early lead before 17-year-old Jamal Musiala scored his first Champions League goal on only his fourth appearance in Europe.

Lewandowski's strike was his 72nd Champions League goal, taking him solo third on the all-time list ahead of Real Madrid great Raul.

While, Stuttgart-born Musiala, who

turns 18 on Friday, is now the youngest English goalscorer in Champions League history.

A Leroy Sane strike gave Bayern a three-goal half-time cushion at the Stadio Olimpico before Francesco Acerbi scored an own goal just after the break.

"We are a huge step closer to the quarter-finals," Bayern coach Hansi Flick told Sky.

Joaquin Correa pulled a goal back early in the second half to give the score-line some respectability for Lazio.

Simone Inzaghi's Lazio need a near miracle in the return game in Munich on March 17 to reach the last eight.

SINGLES

BARTY STUNNED BY UNSEEDED COLLINS

ADELAIDE: Unseeded Danielle Collins sent an out of sorts Ashleigh Barty crashing out of the Adelaide International in the second round on Wednesday. Collins seized on some poor serving from the world number one to claim a convincing 6-3, 6-4 win in just 65 minutes. It was Collins' first win over Barty in three encounters.

JYOTI GULIA BEATS WORLD CHAMP

NEW DELHI: Jyoti Gulia (51kg) upstaged two-time world champion Nazym Kyzaby of Kazakhstan to enter the quarterfinals along with two others but three Indians bowed out after second-round losses in the 72nd Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament. 2017 world youth champion Gulia, prevailed 3-2 over Kyzabay, a Gold-winner from the 2014 and 2016 world championships.

BAJRANG, VINESH EYE GOOD OUTING

NEW DELHI: Star Indian wrestlers Bajrang Punia and Vinesh Phogat will return to competitive action as the Wrestling Federation of India on Wednesday announced a 34-member squad for the Matteo Pellicone, to be held in Rome from March 4-7. The two Olympic-bound wrestlers, who had skipped the World Cup in Belgrade last year, will look for a good outing at the international ranking series tournament.

SINDHU GETS EASY PASSAGE TO QUARTERS

NEW DELHI: Reigning world champion PV Sindhu has got an easy passage to the quarterfinals but her compatriot Saina Nehwal was not as fortunate, drawing a tougher first-round opponent in the prestigious All England Championships. The tournament is scheduled to be played in Birmingham from March 17-21. Sindhu will kick off her campaign in the women's singles with a clash against Malaysia's Sonika Cheah.

BHAMBRI RETURNS AFTER TWO YEARS

SINGAPORE: Yuki Bhambri made his return to competitive tennis after over two years away due to a complicated injury layoff and put up a good fight before going down in the first round, bringing India's singles challenge to an end at the Singapore Open on Wednesday. Meanwhile, Prajnesh Gunneswaran started his campaign at the ATP Challenger in Nur-sultan with a win, after back-to-back opening losses at his last three Challengers. He beat Dostanbek Tashbulatov 6-2, 6-3 and will play Brayden Schnur next. Playing his first professional match since October 2018, Bhambri lost 6-3, 7-6 (3) to Australia's Matthew Ebden. **AGENCIES**