

OPINION 6

QUESTIONING PULLBACK
FROM AFGHANISTAN

WORLD 8

CHINA ASKS US TO HALT SUPPORT TO
SEPARATIST FORCES IN TIBET, HK, XINJIANG

SPORT 12

NZ BEAT AUS
IN 1ST T20I

BHUBANESWAR, TUESDAY FEBRUARY 23, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹4



the pioneer

www.dailypioneer.com



I LOVE
COOKING:
ANURAG BASU
10 VIVACITY

Modi vows to resurrect Sonar Bengal

BJP will bring real 'poriborton' by ending extortion, cut-money raj, pledges PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a public meeting in Hooghly district on Monday

PTI

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ CHINSURA

A(mra ashol poriborton chai (we want real change). That is how Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday referred to the political will of the people of an election-bound Bengal. "The people have made up their mind to bring about the real poriborton... the one that will restore Bengal to its glorious past converting it to the real Sonar Bangla (Golden Bengal)," the Prime Minister told a mam-

moth rally at Shahganj in Hooghly district about 50 km from Kolkata.

The Prime Minister inaugurated the extension of Metro Railway from Noapara to Dakshineswar and flagged off the first service on this 4.1 km stretch — constructed at a cost of ₹464 crore — joining the two famous Kali Temples of Dakshineswar and Kalighat. The PM used the occasion to launch a scathing attack on the Mamata Banerjee Government for "only perpetrating appease-

ment politics and doing nothing for the people of the State who brought her to power with great hopes."

Slamming the alleged "cut-money culture, syndicate raj," criminalisation of politics and politicisation of administration, the Prime Minister said, "Bengal will continue to lag behind till syndicate raj and cut money culture continues in the State," reminding how in the past people from other States came to Kolkata for earning their bread "but today the local

people have to move out to other States for employment." "This situation will not improve till there is a real poriborton," the Prime Minister said and referred to "little" progress made in the implementation of the Central schemes like "Jal Jeevan Mission" aimed at reaching drinking water lines to every household.

"At a time when other States are implementing the scheme quickly so that their women do not have to go miles away to fetch drinking water and so that all the citizens can get clean potable water free from disease, the Government here is sitting over the scheme," Modi said.

The PM added that the Centre had sanctioned ₹1,700 crore for the project targeting 1.75 crore families... but the State has managed to cover only 9 lakh families spending ₹609 crore. "It has siphoned off the remaining funds," he said.

Attacking the Trinamool Congress Government for promoting Tolabaji (extortion), syndicate, and cut-money, instead of nationalism, the PM alleged the farmers of Bengal who produce paddy, jute, etc, were being looted.

"There will be no relief for them till we do not set up modern industries like food processing industries," he said, adding there was an urgent need to modernise infrastruc-

ture in the State. "When I meet Bengali people abroad they say that they want to come and invest here but cannot do so because of cut money culture... even if you go to hire a house you need to pay up cut money here so how can the

State develop... for this you need real change," he said. "When our party would come to power, we will convert Bengal known for its Tolabaji into Sonar Bangla. We will take quick decisions to ensure steady development," he said.

CBI quizzes Abhishek kin, wife may be grilled today

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The CBI on Monday questioned Maneka Gambhir, the sister-in-law of Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee for more than three hours in a coal smuggling case. Abhishek is the nephew of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

Rujira Banerjee, the wife of Abhishek Banerjee, is likely to be quizzed on Tuesday. The CBI had on Sunday sent a notice to her for questioning. According to sources, Rujira has agreed to meet the CBI officials on Tuesday.

Two women officers of the agency questioned Gambhir at her residence in Patrasayar area on Monday and reportedly asked questions regarding some "significant" transfers of funds from

Kolkata to her two accounts in Bangkok. She was also asked to share details about a third account in London.

The CBI had registered an FIR in November last year against Anup Majhi, alias Lala, the alleged kingpin of the coal scam, Eastern Coalfield Ltd General Managers Amit Kumar Dhar and Jayesh Chandra Rai apart from ECL Chief of Security Tanmay Das, Area Security Inspector, Kunustoria Dhananjay Rai and SSI and security in-charge Kajor area Debashish Mukherjee.

In a related development, the Enforcement Directorate sent a notice to Priyadarshini the daughter of Bengal Minister Firdhad Hakim asking her to appear before it in relation to alleged irregularities in the transactions of her bank accounts, sources said.

Covid upsurge after Nov hints at second wave

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the fifth consecutive day, active Covid-19 cases in the country continue to rise, crossing the 1.5 lakh mark in 17 days, which is the steepest overall increase since November-end, an indication of the second wave of infection setting in. The increase in active cases is also double than 1.5 per cent recorded this time last week. The total number of new cases reported per day has also increased from a low of 9,121 on February 16 to 14,199 on Monday, with the seven-day moving average increasing by 13.8 per cent. The total tally of Covid-19 cases on Monday crossed 1.10 crore and the toll reached close to 1,56,500.

The spike in national numbers comes as five States — Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh — report increased daily numbers. The Centre has warned all five States that continued "adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour" is critical to breaking the chain of transmission and contain coronavirus. "Over 74 per cent of active cases are in Kerala and Maharashtra... there has also been a spike in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh... Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir are also



A policeman penalises a commuter for not wearing a mask amid rise in coronavirus cases across Maharashtra, in Mumbai on Monday

PTI

witnessing a surge in daily new cases," the Health Ministry said on Sunday.

In Maharashtra, the worst-affected State, the seven-day moving average of new cases was 5,230 this morning — the highest since 5,576 on December 2. This morning 6,971 new cases were reported in 24 hours — the most since October 24, when 7,347 were detected. In Kerala, the second worst-affected State, the seven-day moving average of new cases was 4,361 this morning and 4,070 new cases were reported in 24 hours.

As on February 22, the vaccination coverage was 1,11,16,854 through 2,32,317 sessions.

Dadra & Nagar Haveli MP found hanging in hotel

Suicide note found in Mumbai hotel

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a shocking development, seven-time Lok Sabha member from the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli Mohan S Delkar, 58, was found hanging in a hotel in the Marine Drive in South Mumbai on Monday.

Survived by wife, a son and a daughter, Delkar is suspected to have committed suicide and his body was found in his hotel room on Monday morning. The investigators have recovered a suicide note from the crime scene.

The leader of the Bharatiya Navshakti Party had checked into the Sea Green Hotel located along the Sea facing Marine Drive in south Mumbai.

"A suicide note (written in Gujarati) was found at the spot. The body has been sent for post-mortem," Deputy



Police officials leave the hotel where P Mohanbhai Delkar was found dead in Mumbai on Monday

PTI

Commissioner of Police and Mumbai Police spokesperson Chaitanya S said. Known popularly as Mohanbhai, Delkar was a member of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice and a member of the Consultative Committee, Ministry of Home Affairs.

He represented the Dadra Nagar Haveli seat in the Lok Sabha for seven terms — the earlier being in 1989 as an Independent, 1991 and 1996 from the Congress, 1998 as a BJP candidate, 1999 as an Independent and in 2004 on Bharatiya Navshakti Party, a political outfit floated by him.

Puducherry Govt falls as CM resigns ahead of trust vote

PNS ■ NEWDELHI/ PUDUCHERRY

The Congress Government in Puducherry fell on Monday after Chief Minister V Narayanasamy resigned ahead of the confidence vote in the Assembly after his coalition Ministry was reduced to a minority due to a spate of resignations of party MLAs and a DMK legislator recently.

Narayanasamy met Lt Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and submitted the resignation of his four-member Cabinet, ahead of the Assembly elections due in April-May.

With the exit of the Congress Government in Puducherry days after the visit of former party president Rahul Gandhi to the Union Territory, now Punjab, Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh are the only three States in the country ruled by the grand old party.

Holding that Speaker VP Sivakolundhu did not put to vote the motion moved by him



Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy leaves after attending the Special Assembly Session to give his resignation letter to Lt Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Monday PTI

for a confidence vote, the Congress veteran said the former's ruling that it stood defeated was "incorrect and invalid." He said the party will see legal help surrounding the issue of voting rights of nominated members.

DMK chief MK Stalin, whose party is an ally of the Congress here, also slammed the Opposition for the fall of the Government and hailed Narayanasamy for "upholding democracy."

Claim of WHO nod to Coronil as Covid drug shocks IMA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Medical Association (IMA) on Monday took strong exception to the claim of WHO certification for Patanjali's Coronil tablet. Refuting the company claims that Coronil is an evidence-based medicine to fight Covid-19, the IMA demanded an explanation from Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan in whose presence the medicine was launched.

This comes in the wake of global health body, WHO, clarifying that it has not reviewed or certified the effectiveness of any traditional medicine for the treatment of Covid-19.

Yoga guru Ramdev's Patanjali Ayurved on February 19 claimed the Coronil tablet had received certification from the Ayush Ministry as a medicine supporting Covid-19 treatment as per the WHO's certification scheme.

However, Patanjali's managing director Acharya Balkrishna clarified: "We want to clarify to avoid confusion



that our WHO GMP compliant COPP certificate to Coronil is issued by DCGI. It is clear that WHO do not approve or disapprove any drugs. WHO works for building a better, healthier future for people all over the world (sic).

Patanjali had introduced Ayurveda-based Coronil on June 23 last year, when the pandemic was at its peak. It had to face severe criticism as it lacked scientific evidence regarding its efficacy.

The IMA said, "Being Health Minister (Dr Harsh Vardhan) of the country, how justified is it to release such falsely fabricated unscientific product to people of the whole country...can you clarify the time frame, time line for the so-called clinical trial of this said anti-corona product? The country needs an explanation from the Minister.

A brilliant Budget, says Naveen It's simply playing with statistics: LoP

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik termed the State Budget as "nothing short of brilliant". "Odisha Budget is pro-people, pro-growth and transformative budget in our journey towards 'New Odisha-Empowered Odisha' where most of last year we lost in Covid-19 lockdowns," said Patnaik. He pointed out that as part of Green budget initiative, Odisha is one of the first States to adopt complete E-budgeting.

However, Opposition leaders criticised the Budget saying it is simple a white-wash; nothing concrete has been envisioned. Leader of Opposition (LoP) Pradipta Naik (BJP) said the Budget simply plays with statistics not based on inflation.

There is nothing on rural employment and infrastructure. The State Budget largely depends on Central allocations, but the State Government is not ready to give credit to the Centre. BJP Legislature Party Deputy



Leader Bishnu Sethi questioned what steps are taken to provide livelihoods of migrant labourers.

Congress legislator Santosh Singh Saluja questioned that though the Government has presented a separate budget for agriculture, what is it doing for farmers' welfare? Congress MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati rubbished the Budget saying the Government has painted a rosy picture to simply hood-wink people.

"When you have mentioned taking loan of Rs 17,000 crore, what is the meaning of plan outlay," he asked.

Anjana Mishra gang-rape that forced JB to quit

PRIME ACCUSED BIBAN, ON THE RUN FOR 22 YRS, NABBED

HAD CHANGED NAME TO JALANDHAR SWAIN, STAYING NEAR MUMBAI

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a major breakthrough in the sensational Anjana Mishra gang-rape case, Odisha police with the help of their Maharashtra counterparts have nabbed prime accused Vivekananda alias Biban Biswal, who had been absconding for the last 22 years, from Maharashtra.

The case of gang-rape on January 9, 1999 midnight had unleashed State-wide protests leading to resignation of JB Patnaik as the Congress Chief Minister about a week after the incident. The alleged sexual assault on Anjana Mishra,

estranged wife of an Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer, by the then Advocate General Indrajit Roy, a close associate of JB Patnaik, had added to the problems of the beleaguered Patnaik Government.

Briefing mediapersons, Twin City Commissioner of Police Sudhanshu Sarangi here on Monday said Biban had changed his name to Jalandhar Swain and was staying in Aamby Valley in Lonavala near Mumbai. He was working as a plumber there.

The CP informed, "He had mentioned Naranpur (Cuttack) in his permanent address. When we initiated an inquiry, we found out that no such person belongs to Naranpur. He had a permanent job, Aadhaar card and bank account there. But he was in contact with his family members and had asked his family to get a death certificate in his name to avoid police



Biban Biswal, the main accused in the high-profile Anjana Mishra gang-rape case, is shown in a police custody.

detention in future." He further informed that an 'Operation Silent Viper' had been launched three months ago with a team of three police personnel, including Cuttack DCP Prateek Singh.

On February 19, a special team led by Badambadi police station JIC Rashmi Ranjan Mohapatra left for Mumbai to nab the accused. "Odisha police with the help of Maharashtra counterparts launched operation 'Aamby Valley'.

The cops got to know that a person named Swain works in Aamby Valley as a mechanic and stays in a staff quarters two and a half km away. Seeing police, the accused tried to escape.

Biban must be hanged: Anjana

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

After police nabbed Biban Biswal, the main accused in the high-profile Anjana Mishra gang-rape case, Mishra in her reaction on Monday said, "Biban must be hanged till death."

Mishra said, "I feel relieved and happy now. I had not expected that the main culprit will be arrested one day. In fact, I was told that he has died."

She said an investigating agency like the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) sat over the case for years and did not take any action.

"I thank Commissioner of Police Sudhanshu Sarangi and his team for delivering justice to me. May God bless them!"

Pujari presents ₹1.7 lakh-cr State Budget for 2021-22

₹3,500 CR TO CONVERT SCB INTO 'AIMS PLUS INSTITUTE'

₹9,164 CR FOR PUBLIC HEALTHCARE

₹17,469 CR FOR AGRICULTURE, ALLIED SECTORS

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari on Monday presented in the State Assembly the annual State Budget for 2021-22 having an outlay of Rs 1.7 lakh crore. Pujari also presented a separate Agriculture Budget of Rs 17,468 crore.

The State Budget proposed to spend Rs 3,500 crore over three years to convert the SCB Medical College Hospital into an "AIMS Plus institute" to provide world-class healthcare facilities. A total sum of Rs 9,164 crore is allocated for public healthcare with an increase of about 19 per cent over the previous year. Rs

1,353 crore is allocated under the Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana and Rs 1,572 crore under the Mukhyamantri Swasthya Seva Mission. A massive investment of Rs 12,000 crore has been made for piped drinking water supply projects across the State. A sum of Rs 542 crore has been set aside as part of the mega plan to transform pilgrim city Puri into a world heritage city under the ABADHA scheme.

Rs 200 crore has been earmarked for the Samalewari Temple Area Management and Local Economic Initiative (SAMALEI) and Rs 200 crore has also been allocated under the Ekamra Kshetra Amenities and Monuments Revival Action (EKAMRA) plan. An allocation of Rs 17,469 crore for agriculture and allied activities has been made including Rs 1,800 crore under the scheme Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income



Augmentation (KALIA) and Rs 819 crore provided towards Interest Subvention on crop loans to cooperative and commercial banks.

Rs 106 crore has been provisioned for millet mission and Rs 1415 crore for fisheries and animal resources development. Rs 148 crore is provided as Infrastructure Grants to OAT for promoting agriculture education, research and infrastructure.

Rs 3,050 crore for disaster management including Rs 2,139 crore under State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF) and Rs 961 crore under National Disaster Risk Management Fund (NDRMF) have been proposed.

Paperless Budget saves 2K big trees

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The paperless State Budget 2021-22 tabled through digital mode saved 2,000 large trees and reduced paper trail of 1.5 crore pages, official sources said. Odisha is the second State in the country to adopt complete e-budgeting by building digital infrastructure, actively promoting adoption and usage of documents in electronic form.

Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari delivered the budget speech from an iPad. The members of the House accessed the budget documents in an e-book format.

The budget is available on National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) while a dedicated Odisha Budget App is available in app stores.

Govt, Opp trade barbs on paddy procurement

CONG, BJP HIT OUT AT GOVT FOR IRREGULARITIES IN MANDIS

BJD MEMBERS SLAM DOUBLE STANDARDS OF BJP

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Despite a reply from Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Ranendra Pratap Swain in the State Assembly on Monday, the Opposition seemed to be in no mood to relent on the issue of corruption in paddy procurement in mandis.

Given the standoff over the issue that continued since the beginning of the ongoing Budget Session, an all-party meeting called by the Speaker had been held on Saturday. While both the Congress and BJP members took on the State Government on the alleged corruption in mandis, the ruling BJD members

charged the Union Government for delay in releasing pending dues and the financial loss incurred by the State due to revision of the Central provisions.

The BJD and the Congress attacked the BJP-led Union Government for allegedly running away from its primary responsibility and alleged that the BJP in the State was adopting double standards on the farmers' issues.

BJD member Pratap Deb said millers were not State Government's agents. They belong to the Central Government, he said and questioned why despite bumper crop productions, the FCI was not purchasing paddy.

Deb further added that the Central Government was yet to release Rs 7,348 crore to the State towards paddy procurement. The State Government will purchase paddy from all farmers listed. That's why the

State has borrowed Rs 10,000 crore, Deb told. Congress Legislature Party Leader Narasingha Mishra, while accusing the Union Government of dilly-dallying on farmers' issues, alleged that the State Government was responsible for large scale corruption in paddy procurement.

It is the primary duty of the FCI which comes under the Union Government to purchase paddy, Mishra told. BJP legislator from Sambalpur Jayanarayan Mishra questioned as to why the State Government was not allowing the district level Procurement Committees to function properly. He demanded to scrap the token system.

If at all the Government wants to continue the system, let the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) be given the responsibility, Mishra demanded. He further

added that while the millers have the task of custom milling, they are acting as main conduits in the irregularities committed in mandis. Mishra alleged that everybody has a share of 12 kg cut in every quintal of paddy during procurement.

Similarly, Opposition Chief Whip Mohan Majhi (BJP) expressed his dissatisfaction over the Minister's answer. Majhi said that Odisha had failed to take benefit of MSP fixed by the Centre. If this trend continues, there will be more and more suicide cases by the famers, he told.

Majhi further pointed out that while the Union Government had sanctioned Rs 13,000 crore to the State Government for paddy procurement, the State Government had spent only Rs 10,000 crore. He demanded specific answer from the Government as to the rest Rs

3,000 crore. Others who took part in the discussion included Mukesh Mahalingam, Suresh Routray, Debesh Acharya, Tara Prasad Bahinipati, Bishnu Sethi, Nauri Nayak, Priti Ranjan Ghadei, Santosh Singh Saluja and Kishore Mohanty.

Keeping his replies, Minister Swain assured the House that Government would purchase paddy from farmers but not from traders who were acting like farmers.

Targeting the BJP for its double standards, Swain said that while farmers in the country were protesting against the Centre's new farm policies, why the BJP was silent on MSP policy. Last year, the FCI had only purchased 17 lakh MT rice out of 28 lakh MT.

Up to February 21, the Government has purchased 55.97 lakh MT paddy while last year it was 46.36 lakh MT, Minister Swain told.

Tourists detained for overtaking Min Sarangi car

PNS ■ BALESWAR

Five tourists from West Bengal were detained by the Baleswar police for overtaking the vehicle of Union Minister Pratap Chandra Sarangi on NH-16 under the Basta police limits on Sunday.

Reportedly, the incident occurred when one Santosh Shaw along with his family members were returning to Kolkata from the Panchalingeswar by two cars.

"While traveling, we heard a siren near Basta. Thinking it to be an ambulance, we let it pass. However, later we realised it to be a Minister's car with a pilot vehicle escorting it. After sometime, the pilot car went off the road to a 'kachha' road and it was then that we over-



took them," said Shaw. Later, the Minister's pilot vehicle chased the two vehicles for around 20 km till Lakhmannath toll gate in Jaleswar area and brought Shaw and his family members to Basta police station.

They were detained for five hours and later released after signing an undertaking that they wouldn't commit the mistake again.

Cyber fraud in State; 4,273 cases in 3 yrs

Govt mulls cybercrime PSs in all districts

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The number of cybercrimes is constantly increasing in the State in the last three years with total 4,273 cases registered during the period, informed Home Minister (MoS) Dibya Shankar Mishra in the State Assembly on Monday.

Replying to a question raised by MLA Soumya Ranjan Patnaik, the Minister said 867 cyber crimes were registered in 2018, which rose up to 1,475 in 2019 and 1,931 in 2020.

Of the total cases, 1,319 were related to cyber crime against women and 2,704 were cyber fraud. While 974 persons, including 11 women have been arrested in connection with the cases, one of them was convicted in court.

In Bhubaneswar

5 squads to ensure Covid norms compliance

Mask-wearing, physical distancing must: BMC

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Rolling up its sleeves to contain Covid infection in the wake of the return of the virus in some States, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has formed five special squads.

As per the fresh guidelines issued by the Special Relief Commissioner (SRC), the squads are visiting the market places to ensure strict observance of Covid-19 safety protocols such as mandatory wearing of mask and maintaining physical distancing in all public places, informed BMC Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary. "The enforcement squads are monitoring the sit-

uation closely in the market areas. They are announcing through mikes in shopping malls and religious paces to follow the Covid safety protocols. The volunteers have been requested to join the campaign to create awareness among public about rise in infections. We are also trying to ensure safety protocol compliance through social media," he said. Speaking about the Covid guidelines, he said that wearing mask in public places is mandatory and it had never been withdrawn despite decline in cases in the city. "Even as the single-day spike has declined in Bhubaneswar, we need to take precautions in battle against the virus," Chaudhary said.

In the wake of new strains of Coronavirus, the SRC has issued 10-point guidelines for the district authorities, civic bodies and SPs to be followed at all levels.

'Sanitise campus, ensure physical distance'

Schools issued fresh instructions amid Covid scare

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Now schools have to sanitise their campus afresh and students, teachers and other staff members have to wear mask and maintain physical distancing mandatorily.

Besides there were would be no other activities other than curricular ones. In a letter to all the District Education Officers, School and Mass Education Additional Secretary Pratap Kumar Mishra instructed for implementation of Covid-19 safety guidelines/protocols maintaining adequate and strict sanitation measures in schools, higher secondary schools and other educational institutions under their administrative control. As per the guidelines, the

teachers and concerned authorities shall ensure strict enforcement of Covid-19 safety protocols such as mandatory wearing of mask, maintaining physical distance and provision of thermal screening, hand wash or use of sanitiser by the students, teachers, staff and others in schools. He instructed not to allow anything other than curricular activities on premises of educational institutions. The persons violating the Covid-19 guidelines may be penalised under the relevant provisions of law, order stated. The instruction from department to DEOs came after Special Relief Commissioner directed all district Collectors and Municipal Corporation Commissioners and SPs for implementation of Covid -19 safety protocols to avoid any chance of resurgence of Coronavirus in Odisha.

High school teacher found Covid+ in BBSR

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Even as Covid-19 spread has been curbed in Bhubaneswar, a high school teacher was found positive couple of day ago. "A teacher was tested positive for Covid-19 in a school in Bhubaneswar following which we had closed the school for two days in consultation with school authorities," Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Prem Chandra Chaudhary on Monday.

Chaudhary said that the BMC is in touch with the school principal and DEO. A watch is being kept on other teachers and students. "We found that the infected teacher had come in contact with many students during teaching. A vigil has been kept on the school. If anyone is found with virus symptoms will undergo test,"

69 new Covid cases in State

Total rise to 3,36,705



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State registered 69 new Covid-19 positive cases on Monday in 18 districts and from the State pool, increasing its total tally to 3,36,705. Of the new cases, 41 were from quarantine centres and 28 were local contact cases.

Sambalpur district reported the highest 12 cases on the day followed by Sundargarh with 11. The rest 16 districts reported cases below 10. Besides, one case was reported from the State pool.

Town Planning Clerk held taking bribe

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Monday caught Nimain Sahu, Dealing Clerk in the office of Special Planning Authority, Town Planning, Keonjhar, red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 25,000.

Sahu had demanded the bribe from complainant Ajay Kumar Biswakarma of village Gourtoti Sahi in the district to process the application for issue of approval of building plan in favour of the complainant.

Following the seizure, his office room and rented residential house at Keonjhar were searched and he was arrested and forwarded to court.

₹32L brown sugar, cash seized in Khordha, 1 held

PNS ■ KHORDHA

In a major drug haul, the Excise Department on Monday seized 320 gram of brown sugar and arrested one peddler from Lokeswarpur village in Khordha district.

The peddler was identified as Haraprasad Das (24) of Lokeswarpur under the Town police station. The excise officials also seized Rs 9.20 lakh cash and a motorcycle from his possession.

During patrolling, the excise team spotted Haraprasad near the Shiva temple road of Lokeswarpur village. After spotting, the patrolling team, Haraprasad panicked and tried to flee.

But the officials managed to nab him and during search the contraband and cash were seized from him," said an excise official. The approximate market price of the seized contraband is around Rs 32 lakh.

Two die as truck overturns in N'rangpur

PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

Two labourers were killed as a truck loaded with rice overturned near Dangapadar village on the Kodinga-Duragaon road on Monday.

According to sources, the truck carrying rice was on its way to village Kodinga in Kosagumuda block of Nabarangpur district.

The deceased were identified as Nobo Harijan and Soradu Bhotra of village Toly - Ambaguda under Kosagumuda block. The truck was seized and the driver was forwarded to the court.

The Kodinga police registered a case and an investigation was on, said SDPO Aditya Sen.

Cargo handling: PPT achieves 100-MT mark

For the 4th year in a row

PNS ■ PARADIP

The Paradip Port achieved handling of 100 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) cargo for the fourth year in a row. The port repeated the feat by achieving cargo throughput of 100.30 MMT till February 21 in the current fiscal. The achievement was made by the PPT despite the global Covid-19 crisis and two of its existing berths not available for handling of cargo, which are under a mechanisation process.

PPT Chairman Vinit Kumar congratulated user industries, stevedores, steamer agents and trade unions to have their continued faith on ability of port to serve them. He also appreciated support of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of Odisha, Indian Railways, Customs, Immigration Department, Dock Safety, MMD as well as all service providers/terminal operators.

Modern aquaculture training at OSAP

Held by CIFA

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A training programme on seed production and modern aquaculture practices was organised by the ICAR-Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture here recently in which a total of 202 people participated.

DCP (Armed) Bijay Kumar Sahu welcomed the dignitaries and participants at the OSAP 7th Battalion campus while Police Commissioner Dr Sudhansu Sekhar Sarangi as chief guest emphasised the need for greater linkage among the Odisha Police and ICAR-CIFA for information sharing in freshwater aquaculture and more collaboration in future. ICAR-CIFA Director Dr Saroj Kumar Swain highlighted the



role of ICAR-CIFA for dissemination of freshwater aquaculture technologies to the tribal areas of the country including NEH States.

Principal Scientist, APED and Chairman, STC Programme of ICAR-CIFA, Dr P Routray informed about the role of the institute for dissemination of aquaculture technologies to the tribal communities of India through STC

pioneer

interview of the week

Probably, China only is a friend to Pakistan

Indo-US ties shall be strengthened in Biden regime



The world today is gripped between cooperation and confrontation. A state's foreign policy is decided on its own national interest having interaction with other countries bilaterally or in multilateral platforms, where Ambassadors are the key players remaining at the vanguard of their countries' interest.

One such eminent Odia officer Abasar Beuria had joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1965 contributing immensely to India's foreign affairs. He has played his four decades of successful innings.

He served in Myanmar, Japan, Soviet Union (now Russia), USA, UAE, Sri Lanka and, finally, Madagascar. He has participated in many bilateral and multilateral discussions championing the cause of India's foreign affairs. In an interview to The Pioneer, Beuria spoke to Sugyan Choudhury on the prevailing foreign affairs scenario.

How far have the steps taken by the Modi Government in curbing China's economic interest in India produced desire results?

The recent proposal of disengagement of Chinese troops at Ladakh has taken place. This is largely due to the steps taken by the Modi Government in restricting the bilateral trade between the two countries as imposed by our Central Government.

I think the China's leadership could not anticipate such a step to be taken up by the Govt of India besides being getting ready for a conflict with China or for meeting with effective confrontation by inflicting a crushing defeat on the aggressive designs of China. The economic steps taken by the Govt of India have forced China to disengage its troops at Ladakh.

Reports say there is political turmoil and economic unrest in China, probably leading to a civil war. Will it ultimately contribute towards freedom of the Tibetans?

It is true that there is political turmoil, economic hazards coupled with crores of unemployed youths in China. There is also huge discontentment among the people and divisions in the communist party as reported from time to

time. But whether that would take a shape to disintegrate China is a very difficult question to predict now. But I am sure if such a situation escalates, there would be some changes in Communist China's political structure.

The society of the Chinese people and their history are such that it is indeed difficult to predict its disintegration. Why should we be in a hurry? Let's wait and watch the developments. As regards Tibet, unless there is a total chaos in China, we cannot think of any precipitated action in Tibet.

For the last so many years, the Chinese Government has been trying to change not only the demography of Tibet but also its entire culture. To some extent, China has succeeded in its attempt in doing so. Getting back autonomy or independence for Tibet is still a matter of waiting. The resistance we are witnessing in Tibet is certainly a concern for the China's security or Chinese pride.

Every country has an Army. But Pakistan Army has a country and with the interference of China, how do you think the plights of these people have got worsened?

There is no doubt that in Pakistan, the final word of governance remains with the



Army. There is nothing new. It has always been like that. The civil administration in Pakistan is a puppet in the hands of the Army. At present, the Pakistan Army is facing a lot of problems in Baluchistan and Sindh.

China and Pakistan have entered into an agreement for Chinese investment in Pakistan. But China invests only where it has its final say. When the Pakistan Army is facing problem in Baluchistan or in some other areas, they seek Chinese interference hoping that China will help Pakistan financially and militarily. Therefore, Pakistan is in turmoil.

Obviously, China's interference in Pakistan's affairs tells upon the latter's national integrity and sovereignty. Pakistan is a failed state in various quarters.

More trouble in Pakistan is posing problems to India as a neighbour. But owing to its crisis, Pakistan depends on China for both financial and military aid. Probably, China is the only country that remains a friend to Pakistan.

With Kamala Harris leaning to the left and Biden not being a hardliner on China like his predecessor, how is it going to affect Indian interest?

I don't think it is going to affect India's interest. Maybe, Biden's foreign policy will be a replica of Obama's. A country's foreign policy is determined by its national interest.

Hence, it is our duty to see that our national interest converges on some points. Whatever we have come to know from Biden's administration is that America will come to international move whether it is WHO, climate change, European countries, Japan or Fareast.

Biden is interested that America, Japan, India and Australia will be partners. And they also know for certain that India is the only country which has the inherent power to curtail China's power in this Indo-Pacific region.

Biden is interested that China should have less influence or the least say in the area of Indian Ocean or in the Pacific Ocean. India has also a big market for any other country like the USA.

Hence, I believe America will cultivate its relationship with India. Biden was a Senator and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He knows many international leaders. No other US president in recent past has that depth of knowledge which Biden has in foreign affairs.

He was responsible to successfully implement the Indo-American nuclear deal. It was for Biden's persuasive power that all the other democrats, who were internally hesitant to sign such a deal, finally agreed. I personally believe Indo-American ties shall be strengthened during Biden's regime and India remain a strategic partner to America.

Back at our homeland, what is your response on Andhra making inroads into Odisha at the Kotia region?

I am actually surprised to know that elections are taking place in Kotia by the AP Government, which claims that it has been conducting elections in this area since the 1950s.

Obviously this is a failure of our administration, which ought to have taken much more interest in these border areas taking stock of the situation and looking at the interest of the people of the areas.

Certainly, it is the failure on the parts of our Government, bureaucracy that things have come to such a pass. The matter has now gone to the Supreme Court, where we have to furnish the necessary evidences to prove that this part of the land belongs to us.

Bhanja Deo death anniv observed



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Glowing tributes were paid to Utkal Sammilani's first president of the organisation Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo on his 109th death anniversary by various eminent persons here on Monday.

Bhanja Deo's statue at Power House Square here was garlanded by the Sammilani and other organisations members. Utkal Sammilani Mancheswar Branch president Dillip Kumar Dashsharma presiding over the function urged the Culture Department to properly maintain the statues of the iconic sons of the State.

Non-revision of pension

UFOERN stages demo at Nabard office

As part of nationwide stir

BIJAY MISHRA ■
BHUBANESWAR

The United Forum of Officers, Employees and the Retired Employees of Nabard (UFOERN) staged demonstration on Monday in front of the Nabard regional office, here, to seek resolution of long-pending pension-related issues.

The agitation was held as part of national level stir held in the Nabard regional offices across the country. UFOERN, Odisha unit secretary Umakanta Mohanty in a Press release said that Nabard was carved out of the Reserve Bank



of India in 1982, with the sole aim to give focus to agriculture and rural development. "Initially, before opting for Nabard, the staff of RBI had the apprehension on parity in salary, allowances and pension benefits etc. The then

Deputy Governor of RBI and Chairman of Nabard, in consultation with the Finance Ministry, had assured the officers and staff of the RBI in writing that they would be entitled to all benefits at par with their RBI staff and persuaded them

to opt for Nabard. Section 50 of Nabard Act 1981 also provided statutory approval to such parity with RBI," Mohanty said.

He further said, "A similar clause was also provided in Nabard Staff Rules 1982 which is a Subordinate Legislation of Parliament. With all these protections guaranteed by Act of Parliament, Nabard employees are hitherto getting all salaries, pension and all other benefits at par with RBI since inception.

Surprisingly, the pension scheme similar to RBI introduced in Nabard in 1993 has not been revised since 1993 even though the pension in RBI has been revised since last two years." A few other modifications in pension scheme approved in RBI like pension after 20 years of service, pen-

sion fixation on the basis of last pay drawn or last 10 months average pay whichever was beneficial, reopening of pension option for very few remaining employees who could not opt due to various reasons, have not yet been effected in Nabard.

As a result, even the top most officials of Nabard retired prior to 1997 presently draw pension which is too meagre for survival, he lamented.

The Board of Directors of Nabard have already approved pension revision and other related issues and sent to the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Government of India for approval. However, the DFS is yet to approve the same revisions for Nabard employees which are pending

since last two years causing a disparity between the employees who had opted for Nabard and who stayed back in the RBI, which is a blatant violation of provisions of Nabard Act.

Statements given in Parliament on various occasions and solemn assurances given by highest authorities in this regard have not been fulfilled. Even the Direction given by the Allahabad High Court (Lucknow Bench) order in December 2019 on pension revision in Nabard has not been honoured by the Government of India, Mohanty said.

Nabard Retired Employees Welfare Association president Dharanidhar Mishra also lamented the apathy meted out to them by the DFS.

In Ganjam

NABARD holds workshop for SHGs

PNS ■ BRAHAMAPUR

Grassroots-Level Training Programme (GRLTP) workshop for SHGs working in Kukuladhandi block in Ganjam district was organised with the sponsorship of the NABARD on Friday. Block ABDO Bijaya Chandra Pradhan inaugurated the workshop.

Nabard DGM Suman Saurabh Sahu said that the motto of organising such workshop is to sensitise the SHG groups as to the welfare and entrepreneurship schemes being implemented by both the Central and State Governments to uplift their social and economic conditions as well as to make them self-reliant. VS Ashok Kumar Sahu outlined details on the subsidy-based schemes of dairy farming,



Poultry and goat farming of which SHG's can adopt as a viable livelihood., BAO K. Madhab Rao urged SHG's to establish production-based entrepreneurship units taking advantage of facilities available under MKVY and PMKVY schemes. Among others, block CDPO Kusum Kumari Sahu, Indian Overseas Bank Branch Manager Saugat Ray also spoke. Chairman of Adarsha Sanjeba Kumar Patnaik presided over the meeting.

Kendrapada locals all praise for movie 'Kalira Atita'

Film on Satabhaya villagers' plight is in Oscar race

RAJESH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPADA

The intellectual masses and the people of Kendrapada praised the internationally acclaimed director Nila Madhab Panda for making the Odia film Kalira Atita, based on problems of sea erosion prone residents in Satabhaya. The film is in the Oscar race.

While director Panda was visiting Satabhaya village in order to shoot the documentary film, he was surprised to

see a tubewell submerged in the mid of sea. Later, he came across a person, who was looking like a mad.

During interaction with that person, he came to know that four villages were devoured by the sea during 2006. As a result, it touched his heart and he decided to make a film, said Golekha Sethy, a resident of Mardarpur, who is an actor in the movie.

The film was shot in 2019 with a crew of 60. The 83-minute movie places the emotional trauma of a man at the centre of its story and traces the devastating effects the tragedy has on him. It revolves around a man from the Satabhaya village which has been swallowed by the sea. Actor Pitabash Tripathy



has played the role of hero in the film.

The film was shot for a month in Panchubarahi, Satabhaya, Bagapatia and Bhitarkanika areas along with

cyclone affected areas of the locality. Temporary houses and latrines were set up for the shooting sets whereas solar lights were used for shooting the film, said Sethy.

K'mal admn to be strict on Covid norms Meet held

PNS ■ PHULBANI

As per the Government Direction, Kandhamal Collector-in-Charge Biswaranjan Nayak on Monday called a review meeting for enforcement of Covid-19 guidelines amid the scare of possible return of the virus.

While with the fall in infection cases, the people have become casual in the use of mask and maintenance of physical distancing, now the administration will be geared up to ensure the Covid safety norms are maintained by everybody.

The police will carry out checks in various places of the district and fines will be imposed on the violators, it was decided.

NTPC Kaniha launches ECAP prog

For Matric examinees

PNS ■ TALCHER

With prime focus on education, the NTPC, Talcher Kaniha, started a programme called Extra Class for All Pass (ECAP) for the students of Class-X in three schools in the vicinity of the plant. The special initiative focuses exclusively on students preparing for board exams in schools, namely, Regional High

School, Gandaberana, Panchayat High School, Bijigol, and Pabitra Mohan High School, Kaniha.

In order to compensate for the loss in school time due to Covid-19 pandemic, the NTPC Talcher Kaniha scheduled extra classes with teachers and also provided necessary test paper books and notebooks to students.

To discuss the plan of action in the schools, a meeting was held on February 5,



among teachers and CSR officials from NTPC Kaniha. In addition, a parent-teacher meeting was also organised on February 13, coordinated by the NTPC-CSR team to impress upon the parents the need to make their children study at home.

In Angul

Father, son duo held for job fraud

PNS ■ ANGUL

A man and his son of the Similpada of Angul district were arrested for allegedly duping a youth of Rs 4.50 lakh on the pretext of getting him a job in a blue-chip company. The accused, identified as Ghanashyam Mishra and his son, had taken the money from one Pranabandhu Jena of

Benagadia in the district on assurance of getting him a job in Tata Company. The accused had received money around three years ago but failed to fulfil assurances.

Later a disappointed Pranabandhu demanded his money back from them. Though accused repaid Rs 80,000 in installments, they didn't return rest amount Later,

Pranabandhu lodged a police complaint following which cops arrested the duo. "A complaint was received from one person based on which a case was registered at Colliery police station and accused were arrested. We will move court seeking their remand for further probe. We will probe on if any other people were duped by duo," Angul SP Jagmohan Meena said.

In Baleswar

Man sentenced to life for raping minor

PNS ■ BALESWAR

The Special POSCO Court here on Monday convicted a accused for raping a minor girl and awarded him life imprisonment. The court also slapped a penalty of Rs 25,000 on him and, in default, another one year's imprisonment.

Judge Girija Prasad Mohapatra pronounced the verdict in the case which occurred in November 2017 in the Gobarghata area under Jaleswar police station.

The convict Banshi Maharana had raped a six-year

old girl on November 3, in Banapokhari village where he was residing posing as a transgender. The mother of the victim after learning about the incident informed the police on November 21.

But by then the accused had absconded. Later, police managed to nab him. Special Public Prosecutor Pranab Panda said the case was handed over to the State Crime Branch and marked as a Red Flag case. The court pronounced the judgement after cross-examining 15 witnesses and 17 documents, said Panda.

Karlapat jumbo deaths: Livestock Inspector axed

PNS ■ BHAWANIPATNA

Following the death of as many as seven elephants at Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary in Kalahandi district, the State Government on Monday suspended a Livestock Inspector from service on the charge of dereliction of duty.

Karlapat Livestock Inspector Ganesh Pujari was put under suspension, informed Animal Resources Additional Director Pratap Kishore Khamari. The move came after the latest instance of a decomposed body of an elephant calf being found at Ghushuriguda under the

Karlapat Wildlife Sanctuary on Sunday taking the jumbo toll to seven in just 20 days.

On Saturday, a three-member Central team from Delhi had visited the sanctuary and confirmed that haemorrhage septicaemia was the reason of the elephants' death. Earlier, six elephants, including a juvenile, had died in two weeks at the sanctuary.

The samples of elephant carcasses were sent to the Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneswar, for examination. The test report suggested that the elephants died of haemorrhage septicaemia.

Uptick in Covid cases

Ganjam DM asks people not to panic

'Take precautions to prevent outbreak'

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

In view of the Covid-19 graph shooting up in some States, the Ganjam Collector has urged people in the district not to panic but take adequate precautions like maintaining social distancing, masking and hand washing to prevent the virus spread. On Monday, to spread awareness about the virus, Collector Vijay Amrit Kulange, Berhampur

Municipal Corporation (BeMC) Commissioner Sidheshwar Baliram Bonder, Deputy Commissioner RC Khamari, Enforcement Officer Tarunakanta and employees cycled from Ramalingeswar Road, passed through prominent squares in the city spreading awareness on how to prevent the Coronavirus outbreak.

Besides, the BeMC has continued its efforts in keeping the city neat and clean. Competitions like "Mo Ward Swachha Ward", "Mo Sahi Swachha Sahi" are being organised and prizes awarded. The civic body has warned

shopkeepers to obey the guidelines strictly and keep their surroundings neat and clean. The BeMC Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner are personally inspecting the cleanliness

and sanitisation drives. Besides, the administration has instructed the ASHA, Anganwadi Workers and ANMs to identify patients having Covid symptoms and take them to the test centres.



Resilient village ecosystem inviolable for climate action



SUNDARA NARAYANA PATRO

The village ecosystem is composite, compact, and resilient. It generally composes forest, agricultural land, and water bodies. The environmental pollution is at the minimum in a village ecosystem.

However, the accumulation of forest litters, agricultural waste, cow dung, household and other waste rich in organic matter emit a lot of methane due to decomposition and putrefaction. Organized collection and scientific treat-

ment of such waste material would help improve sanitation and health. Organic waste treatment in biogas plant can generate methane gas and slurry. Methane can be used as fuel for kitchen, street light, running fan and the slurry could be used as organic manure for agricultural crop and kitchen garden.

The village ecosystem is an entity of community conservation of forest, agriculture and water bodies which is the backbone of rural and tribal economy. The village communities live close to the forests and have been its custodians inherently. They are the protectors and never destroyers of the natural forests.

They collect materials from the forests for house construction, agricultural implements, day to day needs and various other purposes. They use wood, leaf and bark of Sal, bamboo and different other plants for house construction. The materials used are available

within one km radius of stay for which no mining or any processing industry is required. The pharmaceutical industries of all faith (ayurvedic, homeopathic, unani, sidha, allopathic, etc.) make their preparations from the raw materials derived out of the natural plants and plant parts procured from village forests.

Deforestation accounts for up to 20 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming, according to the World Bank. One acre of forest absorbs about 1,587 kg of carbon dioxide, while a single adult tree on an average absorbs 6 tonnes of it. The Odisha coast stretch of over 480 km long was once upon a time covered with thick mangrove vegetation.

Unfortunately the entire coast is denuded of such vegetation except a few sporadic patches at Bhitarkanika, Mahanadi, Subarnarekha, Devi-Kauda, Dhamra, and Chilika areas. Mangrove plants

act as good coastal shelter belt and are used for construction of house and fishing boat, making of agricultural implements and furniture, fire wood, charcoal, fodder, medicine, tannins, etc. Before 1940 in the delta region of Mahanadi the areas were full of mangroves. In 1960 for the Paradip Port construction 2500 hectares of mangrove forest was cleared.

This is one example of how natural mangroves have been sacrificed for development activities. Mangrove green belt is an efficient carbon dioxide sequester.

The Indian Forest Act of 1927 had provision for constitution of 'village forests' to meet local needs. The forest policies of colonial India continued into the post-colonial period, as exemplified by the National Forest Policy of 1982, which reinforced the right of the State to exclusive control over forest protection, production and management.

Just as the fulfillment of

imperial needs was the priority of colonial forest policy, the demands of commercial industry became the cornerstone of post-colonial forest policy. Large tracts of forests were diverted for mining, industry, hydro-electric dam projects, agriculture, and other development projects in the years after independence. The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972 and the Forest Conservation Act 1980 seriously eroded the tribal people's livelihood security from forests.

However, Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act 2006 (FRA) is an attempt to acknowledge the tenurial rights of tribes and other forest dwelling communities. In India 1,70,000 villages with 147 million population are located in forest vicinity.

The National Environment Policy (NEP) 2006 is a response to our national commitment to clean environment, mandated in the constitution in Articles

48A and 51A(g), strengthened by judicial interpretation of Article 21. It is recognized that maintaining a healthy environment is not the State's responsibility alone, but also that of every citizen. There are a series of important International Conventions and Protocols on climate change beginning from the Stockholm Conference in 1972, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) Global Convention 1992, up to the Paris Climate Summit 2015 and after.

Corona virus imposed a new situation in 2020 on environment and economy. A survey conducted recently discloses that in Maharashtra 94 per cent of Covid-19 cases occurred in urban areas while only 6 per cent occurred in rural areas. Similarly in Karnataka 92 per cent of it was observed in urban areas compared to 8 per cent in rural areas. However, with hordes of migrants returning, there could be the double-whammy of the

spread of Covid-19 and the worsening of the socio-economic situation in rural areas. The Union Government budget in the current year and Corporate Social Responsibility funds should justifiably focus attention to strengthen the resilient village ecosystem and the healthcare infrastructure and capacity building in order to mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in rural areas as much as possible.

A resilient ecosystem or ecological resilience can only save the humanity from the disaster of climate change due to global warming. Time has come for us to exercise restraint and withdraw from greed of reckless use of natural resources paying scant regard to purity of the nature.

Let us try to give healing touch in a way that does not lead to loss of ecological resilience of Nature. 'Ecological Resilience' means the capacity of the ecosystem to absorb disturbance or stress and

remain within its natural variability. A resilient ecosystem resists damage and recovers quickly from stochastic disturbances such as fires, flooding, windstorms, insect population explosions, proliferation of virus and other microorganisms, and human activities such as deforestation and the introduction of exotic plant or animal species.

The village ecosystem is the best resilient ecosystem as it renders multifarious services such as water storage and retention, erosion control, carbon sequestration, regulating carbon, oxygen and cycles, harboring pollinators, biological control, building up immune system, food production, transforming energy from the sun into stored chemical energy, genetic resource, and cultural milieu.

(Dr Patro is president, Orissa Environmental Society snpatro11@gmail.com Phone: 9437190420)

INBRIEF

TRUCKERS SENSITISED ON ROAD SAFETY AT JSPL



Champua: The Jindal Steel and Power Ltd (JSPL), Barbil organised an awareness programme on road safety for truckers as part of the observation of 32nd National Road Safety Month outside the company's pellet plant premises with about 250 drivers of peripheral areas attending it. Plant head Brij Badhadra said, "At JSPL, safety is our outmost priority." HR head Sarat K Panda said, "There is an urgent need to make our roads safer as the loss of lives and limbs cannot be accepted at the price of mobility." Distribution of safety shoes, safety helmets and facemasks marked the event.

IFFCO PARADIP BAGS PRODUCTIVITY AWARD



Paradip: The Iffco Paradeep unit was conferred with the "Best Productivity Excellence Award 2020" from the Orissa State Productivity Council at a function held recently on the occasion of the National Productivity Week celebration. The award was presented by Revenue and Disaster Management Department Principal Secretary Bishnupada Sethi in the presence of the Regional Director, National Productivity Council. The award was received by Joint General Manager (Production) Iffco Paradeep RK Pandey.

CONSTABLE FELICITATED IN GANJAM

Brahmapur: Ganjam SP Brijesh Kumar Rai felicitated Constable Pankaj Kumar Gauda of the Kabisuryanagar police station for his sincerity and exemplary work in unearthing stolen gold ornaments and cash in Purushotampur police limits. The investigation of Gouda helped police recover 6.5 kg of gold ornaments and cash of Rs 4,44,500 from the culprits.



Modi: India on its way to export weapons to world

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Stressing the need for self-reliance in defence manufacturing, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said here India is developing its capabilities to produce low cost and high quality weapon systems to emerge as one of the biggest exporters.

Making these remarks in a webinar organised by the defence ministry, he also invited the private sector to play a major role in defence production. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said the ministry has kept aside nearly ₹70,000 crore of the total capital outlay this fiscal to procure weapon systems manufactured in India.

He also said the Government will soon issue a second negative list of items which can only be procured locally by the Services. Last year, for the first time, the Government introduced a separate allocation for domestic procurement within the defence budget and had reserved ₹52,000 crore for

2020-21.

"My Ministry has planned to invest, about 63% of the outlay for 2021-22 on domestic procurement, i.e. about ₹70,221 crore for domestic defence procurement during for 2021-22," Rajnath said at a webinar organised by Department of Defence Production and Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers. The total capital outlay is ₹1.35 lakh crores. The total budget for the coming fiscal is ₹4.78 lakh crore.

Addressing the webinar on the effective implementation of the Union Budget's provisions in the defence sector, Modi listed a series of measures taken by his Government to boost self-reliance in the defence sector and rued the fact that the country is amongst the biggest defence importers in the world.

But now, the country is working hard to change the situation and also to enhance its capacities and capabilities at a fast pace, the prime minister asserted.

He said it is not that the people of India do not have the talent or capability and pointed out that the country did not make ventilators before the coronavirus pandemic, but now manufactures thousands of those.

Modi also cited the example of the indigenously-developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), Tejas. He said his government has relied on the capabilities of the country's engineers and scientists on developing Tejas and today, it is flying gracefully in the skies.

A few weeks ago, an order worth ₹48,000 crore was placed for Tejas, he noted.

Both Modi and Rajnath stressed on simultaneously boosting defence exports while reducing imports. The defence minister said the initiatives resulted in 700% growth in defence exports in the last six years.

He also said India entered in the list of top 25 Exporters in the world as per data published by Swedish think tank SIPRI in 2020.

Sending Central forces to poll-bound States a normal affair, explains EC



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Monday said that Central police forces are being sent to all poll-bound States and not specifically to West Bengal, stressing that it is a routine practice for several decades. In a statement, the poll panel said the CAPFs are routinely sent to all the States and UTs where Lok Sabha or Assembly elections are to take place, for advance area domination, especially in the critical and vulnerable sectors.

It said these sectors are identified by meticulous

advance reviews and concrete feedback from various sources, including political parties and entities. This practice is going on since the late 1980s, it observed. "In the instant case also, the CPFs have been sent to all the four States namely Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and the UT of Puducherry where assembly elections are to take place," the statement said.

It also said that the orders for CPF deployment were issued to the chief secretaries, the DGP and the chief electoral officers of the four states and

Deputy EC to visit Bengal to assess preparedness for Assembly elections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Election Commissioner Sudip Jain, who is in-charge of West Bengal, will be visiting the State on Friday to oversee the preparedness for the upcoming Assembly elections. According to the Election Commission (EC), Jain will hold a meeting with divisional commissioners, zonal IGs, DGs, and SPs in

one UT on the same day — February 16.

At least 25,000 Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) personnel have been earmarked to be deployed for the forthcoming Assembly polls in four States and the Union Territory of Puducherry.



Kolkata on February 25 to review preparedness ahead of the Assembly elections. During his visit, Jain is scheduled to hold meetings with district magistrates, and other senior officials of the State, they said. EC officials said that Jain may also meet officers transferred to the different departments, mainly in the administration and the police, during his visit to West Bengal.

The terms of their legislative assemblies are ending on separate dates in May and June and elections are likely to be held in April.

The Commission was responding to certain reports claiming that central forces were being specifically sent to West Bengal.

NIA chargesheets 2 aides in LeT conspiracy case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA on Monday filed a supplementary charge-sheet before the NIA Special Court, Bengaluru, against two accused persons — Dr Sabeel Ahmed alias Motu Doctor and Asadulla Khan under various IPC Sections and Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the LeT Conspiracy Case, Bengaluru.

While Dr Sabeel Ahmed is a resident of Bengaluru, Karnataka, Asadulla Khan hails from Hyderabad, Telangana.

The case was initially registered as FIR No. 384/2012 at Basaveshwaranagar Nagar police station, Bengaluru City on August 29, 2012 and relates to an alleged conspiracy hatched by the members of the proscribed terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT) and Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-Islami (HuJI) to commit subversive activities and wage war against Government of India.

BJP wins 2 RS seats from Gujarat unopposed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP has won unopposed both Rajya Sabha seats from Gujarat which had fallen vacant following the demise of the sitting MPs.

The seats were won by BJP's Dineshchandra Jemalbhai Ananvadiya and Rambhai Haribhai Mokariya.

The elections to the two seats were necessitated following the passing away of Congress veteran Ahmed Patel and BJP's Abhay Ganpatray Bhardwaj.

The election of the BJP candidates unopposed was confirmed after two dummy candidates withdrew their nominations, according to PTI news agency.

The election of the two BJP candidates was confirmed after the deadline for withdrawal of nominations expired.

The election of the BJP candidates unopposed was confirmed after two dummy candidates withdrew their nominations.

Amid Covid odds, the milk of human kindness

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

When the entire nation went into the Covid-induced lockdown since March 2020 adversely impacting the economy, Telangana-based Mulukanoor Women's Cooperative Dairy (MWCD) walked an extra mile: it continued procuring milk from its not-so privileged women members in rural belt to ensure that they do not feel the pinch of the pandemic.

It was not an easy task, though. Not only the family members of the over 24,000 women members of MWCD were to be convinced to continue supplying milk to the cooperative at their collection centres, but also the reluctant transporters who refused to carry milk from procurement points to the processing plant, citing safety issues.

"We conducted an awareness programme along with

doctors to convince the family members about Coronavirus and safety measures," said MWCD president, Vijaya Gurrula (50). She added, "After discussion, we decided to sanitise all the vehicles bringing milk to the processing plant; and we organised awareness programmes amongst staff as well as members for ensuring smooth procurement and distribution of milk products."

The efforts paid off. The MWCD, which has 182 women dairy cooperatives and boasts a band of 23,000 women milk producers, reported sound financial performance during FY 2019-20 with a turnover of Rs 115 crore.

"This year we will reach Rs 130-crore mark," chipped in Bhaskar Reddy, General Manager of the Cooperative. He knows better. The milk and various dairy products (marketed under the brand name Swakushi) are now well in demand. MWCD which was



Mulukanoor Women Cooperative Dairy president Vijaya Gurrula and general manager Bhaskar Reddy being awarded by NDBB for their contribution in the dairy sector in 2014

incepted in 2002 is currently procuring around 70,000 litres of milk per day (yearly average of 54,000 litres) from its members in the 30 km radius of its headquarters at Warangal urban district and has been registering a steady growth, transforming the life of the poor

women of the region, pulling them out of poverty. Today, it processes 1 lakh litres of milk every day.

Presently, it caters to customers from Karimnagar, Warangal, Adilabad, Medak, Hyderabad, Jangaon and Siddipet, mostly from North

Telangana region. Most of the members of MWCD are predominantly small holder dairy producers, from BPL category.

Over the years, the average income of the members with 2 milch animals has risen up to Rs. 6,000-10,000 per month, while those having around 20

cattles are taking home on an average around Rs 50,000 monthly. Money is transferred directly to their respective bank accounts, shared Reddy who is associated with MWCD since its inception.

The day-to-day affairs of the MWCD is run by its president (this role is same as a CEO in a company) and a 12-member Board of Directors (BoD), who are elected by the members to represent them.

This cooperative allows women dairy farmers to run everything themselves — from collecting and processing milk to marketing it and other dairy products.

Sundee Kumar Nayak, Managing Director of the National Cooperative Development Cooperation (NCDC), which provided financial support to the dairy in 2010, said, "The MWCD is a successful model of an all-women dairy cooperative, and actually meeting the objective of empowering women and providing them financial security,

which in general is the ultimate vision of the NCDC.

"This also helps them improving household nutrition, investment in other activities like children's education," he further said.

There's no stopping for the MWCD from planning big. It has imported blast chillers, incubators and chillers from Germany in 2018 and is planning to expand the capacity to one lakh litre milk plant besides producing value-added products such as flavoured milk, Mysorepak and some other by-products which has huge demand in the region.

Women members too know that apart from earnings from milk, there are various other benefits of being part of the MWCD. For instance, veterinarian is just a call away, insurance for animals is available, cattle feed is made available at factory prices; and one can avail interest-free loans from the cooperative. Time to raise a toast for this women-oriented initiative, with a glassful of milk.

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	THE KURUKSHETRA KARNAL CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCERS UNION LTD. AT KURUKSHETRA	NO. MUK/TENDER/2021/18-37, MUK/TENDER/2021/39-47, MUK/TENDER/2021/50-53 & MUK/TENDER/2021/55-56	TENDER DATE EXTENDED EMD & BID SUBMISSION TILL 03.03.2021 AT 11:00 HRS. BID OPENING DATE 04.03.2021 AT 11:30 HRS. AT MILK PLANT KURUKSHETRA	www.vitaindia.org.in	9992525791 milkunionk1@yahoo.co.in
2	HPGCL	2021_HBC_154976_1 NIT NO.330/RGTPP/MM-II/TOE-4449 DT. 01.01.2021	LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 05.03.2021 UP TO 15:00 HRS. SUPPLY OF ESP SPARES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8222023551 mm2.rgtp@hpgcl.org.in
3	HPGCL	2020_HBC_154778_1 NIT NO.345/RGTPP/MM-II/TOE-12637 DT. 31.12.2020	LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 01.03.2021 UP TO 15:00 HRS. SUPPLY OF BOTTOM STRAINER FOR REGENERATION VESSELS (CRT, ART & SRT) INSTALLED IN CPU REGENERATION SYSTEM TO 2*600 MW, RGTPP, HISAR.	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9315164637 mm1.rgtp@hpgcl.org.in
4	UHBVN	43/CCR/2020-21 (2020_HBC_154578_1)	PREVIOUS DATE OF CLOSING: 18.02.2021 PREVIOUS DATE OF OPENING: 19.02.2021 PREVIOUS DATE OF CLOSING: 04.03.2021 PREVIOUS DATE OF OPENING: 05.03.2021	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9991480086 xenciviluhbvnrohtak@gmail.com
5	HVPNL	E-TENDER ENQUIRY NO. 20/CWR/2020-21 DATED: 01.01.2021 (ONLINE TENDER ID- 2021_HBC_154860_2)	THE LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 04.03.2021 (13:00 HRS.)	www.hvpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
6	HVPNL	NIT NO. 26/AMB/220 KV RAJOKHERI OUTSOURCE/2020-21 DATED:03.02.2021	THE TENDER WAS TO BE OPENED ON DATED 19.02.2021. NOW DATE EXTENDED UPTO 01.03.2021 DUE TO NON TURNING UP MINIMUM BIDDERS I.E. 3 NO. BIDDERS	www.hvpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
7	HVPNL	NIT NO. 60/CWD-2/VOL-XI/HVPNL/2020-21 DATED:04.02.2021 (ONLINE TENDER ID NO. 2021_HBC_158555_1)	DATE OF OPENING BID 20/02/2021 LAST DATE OF ONLINE BID SUBMISSION IS EXTENDED UPTO 01/03/2021 (13:00 HRS.)	www.hvpn.org.in	01722583789 pro@hvpn.org.in
8	HPGCL	2021_HBC_155547_1 NIT NO. 333/RGTPP/MM-II/TOE-4414 DT. 07.01.2021	LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 24.02.2021 UPTO 15:00 HRS. SUPPLY OF SOLENOIDS, LIMIT SWITCHES, AIR FILTER ETC. AT RGTPP, KHEDAR, HISAR	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8222023551 mm2.rgtp@hpgcl.org.in
9	HPGCL	2020_HBC_154733_1 NIT NO. 329/RGTPP/MM-II/TOE-4281 DT. 31.12.2020	LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 24.02.2021 UPTO 15:00 HRS. SUPPLY OF COUPLING DRUM LT AT RGTPP, KHEDAR, HISAR	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8222023551 mm2.rgtp@hpgcl.org.in
10	HPGCL	2021_HBC_157294_1 NIT NO. 335/RGTPP/MM-II/TOE-4425 DT. 22.01.2021	LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION 24.02.2021 UPTO 15:00 HRS. SUPPLY OF AC AND VENTILATION SYSTEM SPARES	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	8222023551 mm2.rgtp@hpgcl.org.in
11	HSAMB JIND	SR NO. 1	THE TENDER SCHEDULED TO BE RECEIVED OPENED ON DT. 23.02.2021 FOR TENDER SR. NO.1 HAVE NOW BEEN RESCHEDULED TO BE OPENED ON 01.03.2021 DUE TO ADMINISTRATIVE GROUND	etenders.hry.nic.in	01681-252003 etenders.gov.in
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in					

		GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA		TENDER NOTICE		
SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	PWD B&R,AMBALA	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROAD FROM RATTANGARH KAKRALI TO BICHYAN IN KURUKSHETRA DISTRICT (ID 9741) (CMA NO.24187 DATED 19/02/2019) – PD-1 KURUKSHETRA	17.02.2021 04.03.2021	117.68 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9729017798 pww-eeepd1-kurukshetra@hry.nic.in
2	PWD B&R, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE WORK OF CONSTRUCTION OF SSO OFFICE BUILDING AT DIRECTOR HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT IN SECTOR 21, PANCHKULA.	22.02.2021 08.03.2021	31.19 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9697200008 pww-eeepd-panchkula@hry.nic.in
3	PWD B&R, JIND	SPECIAL REPAIR OF JULANA-BADCHAPPER ROAD FROM RD 0.000 TO 1.110 IN JIND DISTT. (ROAD ID 6659)	CLOSING DATE 09.03.2021	104.34 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01681-249416 pwwdeepjind@gmail.com
4	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,KAITHAL	RECONSTRUCTION OF V.R. BRIDGE AT RD 36078 OF KAITHAL DRAIN	24.02.2021 03.03.2021	1.38 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01746-298412 xensarasvatindktl@gmail.com
5	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,HISAR	REMODELING OF BARWALA BRANCH FROM RD 15400 TO 17400 + 24 OTHER WORKS	19.02.2021 08.03.2021	2366.56 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662237870 xenwsdnshr@gmail.com
6	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,REWARI	ESTIMATE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TOILET ON 2ND FLOOR DIVISION OFFICE BUILDING AT CANAL COLONY, REWARI+2 OTHERS	CLOSING DATE 01.03.2021	18.41 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xenws2rri@gmail.com
7	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,GURUGRAM	SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR ENGAGING UNSKILLED/ SKILLED WORKMEN ON CONTRACT BASIS FOR, CANAL COLONY & CANAL REST HOUSE GURUGRAM	CLOSING DATE 09.03.2021	50 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xen-gwsgrg.irr@hry.gov.in
8	ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING HARYANA PACHNKULA	TENDER NOTICES FOR PURCHASE OF INCUBATOR/SETTER AND HATCHER.	19.02.2021 05.03.2021	EMD 10,000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9138245110 dg.ahd@hry.nic.in
9	FOREST DEPARTMENT PINJORE	CONSTRUCTION OF CHAINLINK FENCING AT SEONTHI R.F. (KURUKSHETRA) (LABOUR WORK ONLY) UNDER RESEARCH RANGE PINJORE	19.02.2021 04.03.2021	10.38 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01733230518 dfresearch.pinjore@gmail.com
10	FOREST DEPARTMENT HISAR	RE TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 5 NOS. AWC AT VARIOUS VILLAGES IN BLOCK HANSLI DISTT HISAR	19.02.2021 03.03.2021	4.27 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9467251500 prexeeng.hsr@hry.nic.in
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in						
RO 1899						

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR	
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER	
JAL SHAKTI DIVISION (PHE) BIJBEHARA	
(e-mail: phbijbehara230@gmail.com Telephone/Fax: 01932-234230)	
E- NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS	
NIT No:Fresh e-NIT No34/PHED/Bijbehara/ of 2020-21 Dated 17-02-2021	
For & on behalf of the lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders in Two cover system are invited on item rate basis from Registered Contractors registered J&K UT, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-	
S.No 1 Name of work :- Providing / laying / fitting of pipes for distribution system in various habitations of Brinly incl. completion of balance portion of quarter and fencing around structures WSS. Bresty Batapora	
Advrt. Cost In Lacs :- 32.63, Cost of tender Doc In Rs :- 300, Time for Compl In Days :- 60, Class of Contractor :- AAY/BEE, Head of Account :- NABARD	
S.No 2 Name of work :- Balance portion including providing / laying fitting of pipes for supply mains and distt. System in Bon Tooru and Hard Tooru WSS Hard Tooru	
Advrt. Cost In Lacs :- 43.57, Cost of tender Doc In Rs :- 400, Time for Compl In Days :- 60, Class of Contractor :- AAY/BEE, Head of Account :- MNP Distt. Sector	
S.No 3 Name of work :- Providing / laying / fitting of balance portion of supply mains on RS of K.P road from Bumzoo upto Khanwari Mattan incl shifting of existing connection to new supply mains WSS. Krangsoo	
Advrt. Cost In Lacs :- 60.44, Cost of tender Doc In Rs :- 600, Time for Compl In Days :- 60, Class of Contractor :- AAY, Head of Account :- JKIDFC	
S.No 4 Name of work :- Balance work of providing / laying / fitting of pipe network for WSS. Reshi Mohalla Khandipharie	
Advrt. Cost In Lacs :- 35.79, Cost of tender Doc In Rs :- 300, Time for Compl In Days :- 60, Class of Contractor :- AAY/BEE, Head of Account :- JKIDFC	
S.No 5 Name of work :- Completion of pipe network by way of Providing / laying / fitting for WSS. Prakashpora	
Advrt. Cost In Lacs :- 72.25, Cost of tender Doc In Rs :- 700, Time for Compl In Days :- 60, Class of Contractor :- AAY, Head of Account :- NRDPW	
1. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), terms & condition of contract can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the dates shown below:-	
1. Publishing date of NIT :- 17.02.2021 (10.00 AM)	
2. Download start date :- 17.02.2021 (10.00 AM)	
3. Bid submission start date :- 17.02.2021 (10.00 AM)	
4. Bid submission end date :- 27.02.2021 (02.00 PM)	
5. Bid opening date (Technical Cover) :- 27.02.2021 (03.00 PM)	
6. Bid opening date (Financial Cover) Only for those who qualify 1 st cover :- 01.03.2021 (11.00 AM)	
7. Place for opening of bids and address for communication :- Office Of The Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara (phbijbehara230@gmail.com)	
TERMS AND CONDITIONS:	
1. In case of bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, he has to produce additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG before fixation of contract as per following break up within four days from the opening of tenders.	
S.No 1. Percentage of unbalanced bid viz advertised cost on account of low rates :- Upto and including 15% below, Additional performance security :- Nil	
S.No 2. Percentage of unbalanced bid viz advertised cost on account of low rates :- Greater than 15% below, Additional performance security :- 3%	
The tenderer should in his own interest inspect and examine the site, its surroundings/topography, nature of ground, climatic conditions, accessibility or other relevant information at his own expenses and responsibility to satisfy himself before tendering for the advertised work. The bidder will have to execute each part of the work i.e. Civil / Electro-Mechanical part under the close supervision of the respective Engineer-in-Charge of Civil & Mechanical wings in-charge of the Scheme. If L1 fails to start the work within 15 days of the issuance of letter of intent or allotment, whichever is earlier, the department shall allow the work to the other willing Lowest bidder like L2, L3, L4 debarring the Contractor for a period of two years for participating in the e-Nit's issued by the kmr. PHE Department Srinagar.	
18.0 Any item of work which is required for satisfactory completion of the scheme / individual activity shall be exclusively responsibility of the contractor and no additional cost shall be paid to the contractor.	
19.0 In case of any disputes/differences, the jurisdiction shall be to the Courts situated in Srinagar only. Supplies, if involved any, will be deducted at prevalent stock rates at the time of tender for such material. We look forward to your active participation.	
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir	
No. DIPK-13476/20 Dated: 20-02-2021	Sd/- Executive Engineer, (JSD) PHE Div, Bijbehara

381 birds found dead in Maha, samples sent for bird flu test

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Maharashtra reported deaths of 381 birds on Sunday amid the avian influenza scare, a state government official said on Monday.

He said 380 of these were poultry birds, including 190 from Nandurbar and 115 from Amravati in Vidarbha.

Samples are being sent to National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) in Bhopal and Disease Investigation Section, Pune

for bird flu testing, he added.

So far, 7,20,515 poultry birds, including 5,86,668 from Navapur in Nandurbar, have been culled, and 26,44,177 eggs as well as 73,004 kilograms of poultry feed destroyed in infected zones, and carcasses were being buried in lime lined pits to prevent the spread of infection, a state government release informed.

The state government has paid compensation of Rs 3.38 crore to affected poultry farmers in the infected zone, it added.

5 killed in Bihar in truck-auto collision

IANS ■ KATIHAR (BIHAR)

Five people were killed and five were critically injured in a truck-auto collision near Pothia police station in Katihar district of Bihar.

All the deceased were identified as the members of a band.

The incident happened on NH-31 when a truck coming from Bhagalpur lost control near Khaira Mod and collided with an auto coming from the opposite direction, a police official said.

Deputy Superintendent of Police Afak Akhtar Hussain said that four people died on the spot while one died during the treatment.

Five people who sustained injuries were admitted to Katihar Sadar hospital after giving the first aid at a local hospital, he added.

The police is investigating the case and searching for the accused driver who fled from the spot, Hussain said.

Car-bus collision leaves 5 dead

Ahmednagar (Maharashtra): Five persons travelling in a car were killed in a head-on collision with a private travel bus near Devgad, early on Monday morning, police officials said.

According to an official of Nevasa police station, the accident occurred around 2 a.m. on the Ahmednagar-Aurangabad Highway.

"When the car was approaching the Devgad Phata, it was hit by a private tourist bus coming from the opposite direction. All the five occupants of the car were severely injured and are believed to have succumbed on the spot," the official told IANS.

The local villagers managed to rush the victims to a

rural hospital near Nevasa, where they were pronounced dead on admission.

As per initial reports, all were hailing from Jalna and were proceeding to Ahmednagar when the tragedy struck, he added.

Efforts are on to verify their identity and determine the cause of the accident.

The car sustained huge damage with the front portion crushed like an egg-shell though there were no casualties among the bus passengers, he added.

The police called for a crane to clear the road strewn with the car wreckage and the busy highway was cleared for normal traffic by dawn.

IANS

ELGAR PARISHAD-BHIMA KOREGAON CASE

Bombay HC grants Varavara Rao 6-month bail on medical grounds

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

More than two years after his arrest in the Elgar Parishad-Bhima Koregaon case, the Bombay High Court on Monday granted conditional bail to poet and writer Pendyala Varavara Rao for six months on medical grounds.

Releasing to the 82-year-old Left wing activist for a period of six months against a personal bond of Rs 50,000 and two solvent sureties for equal amounts, a HC division bench of Justices S S Shinde and Manish Pitale noted: "We are of the opinion that appropriate conditions need to be imposed on the under-trial even if he is to be released on bail on medical grounds."

Rao is currently undergoing medical treatment at Nanavati Hospital in north-west Mumbai, where he was admitted by the Maharashtra government following court orders.

"Rao is directed to be discharged from the Nanavati Hospital depending on the health condition as on today and he be released on bail for the present, for a period of six months..." the Judges ruled.

"We feel that although the material on record does show that the health condition of the under-trial is precarious, sending the under-trial back to where he belongs, is fraught with the risk of his presence being used by those allegedly associated with him to seek to revive the aforesaid nefarious activities," the Judges observed.

"This court cannot rule out such a contingency and, therefore, it would be appropriate to impose such conditions as would be necessary for ensuring that the under-trial on his own or those allegedly associated with him do not take undue advantage of the situation, which would ultimately adversely affect the trial," the HC opined.

Among the conditions imposed on Rao include: he shall not leave the jurisdiction of the NIA Court at Mumbai on being released; he shall inform the NIA court about his place of residence and his contact number; he shall attend the court proceedings as and when summoned; he may

apply for exemption from personal appearances and he shall report to the nearest police station through WhatsApp Video Call every fortnight.

"The under-trial (Rao) shall not indulge in any activity similar to the activities on the basis of which the said FIR stood registered against him for offences under the IPC and UAPA," the HC ruled.

The HC mandated that Rao "shall not try to establish communication with co-accused or any other person involved directly or indirectly in similar activities or make any international call to any person indulging in similar activities as alleged against him, through any mode of communication" and he "shall not undertake any action which is prejudicial to the proceedings before the NIA Court".

When the Additional Solicitor General Anil Singh sought a three-weeks stay on the HC order, the Judges rejected the plea considering Varavara Rao's advanced age and his medical conditions.

Rao's lawyers Anand Grover and Indira Jaisingh argued that his medical conditions could turn critical if he was again sent back to Taloja Central Jail and would be violative of his fundamental right to health. Rao was arrested by the Pune police on January 31, 2019 and he was charged under offences under Sections 121, 121(A), 153(A), 505(1)(B), 117, 120(B), 124(A) read with Section 34 of the IPC and Sections 13, 16, 17, 18, 18(B), 20, 38, 39 and 40 of the UAPA.

The charge against Rao is that being a senior member of a banned organization-Communist Party of India (Maoist), he has been allegedly actively involved in arranging funding and providing arms and ammunition to the cadre of his organization to wage war against the established Government, causing death of a number of security personnel and citizens.

Rao, who had been hospitalised on a couple during the course of incarceration, was admitted to the Nanavati Hospital on July 19, 2020 following the intervention by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Politicians who want early Assembly polls must help delimitation exercise: J&K LG

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Mainstream politicians clamouring for holding early Assembly polls in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir were on Monday given a sound piece of advice by Lt Governor Manoj Sinha to cooperate with the delimitation commission rather than making excuses.

Setting the record straight Sinha also clarified that the final decision to hold the Assembly polls in Jammu and Kashmir will be taken only by the election commission of India after the completion of the delimitation exercise.

The Delimitation Commission met in New Delhi last week to seek suggestions from the associate members on the process of delimitation of the Union Territory of Jammu and

Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by only two BJP Parliamentarians while three National Conference MP's including Dr Farooq Abdullah skipped the meeting.

On Monday when Lt-Gov Manoj Sinha was asked to react to the recent statements made by the PDP and National Conference leaders over holding early Assembly polls he made it clear those who want early assembly elections in J&K are requested to help and cooperate with the delimitation commission, instead of making excuses.

"There are constitutional institutions in India. The decision is taken by the Election Commission. Let the work related to delimitation get completed, the Commission will definitely conduct elections," he said.

On some politicians "boycotting" the proceedings of the Delimitation Commission, the LG said they must understand that if they want early polls, the delimitation process has to be first completed.

The LG said that "the prime minister has assured the entire nation (on holding polls) and you have seen reports in newspapers that the Delimitation Commission has begun its work".

Meanwhile, reacting to the current political developments, senior congress leader and former J&K Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad Monday suggested the participation of National Conference in the Delimitation Commission process would have given representation to people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to a local news agency

Azad said that the NC leaders should have participated in the delimitation meeting, however, they chose to boycott it, which is not a "good thing".

He said that the National Conference has a majority as they have three parliament members and all of them were appointed as the members of the delimitation commission, which would have made "our case strong", however, they choose to stay away.

Recently, PDP Chief Mehbooba Mufti had alleged that the delimitation exercise in the union territory was a part of Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) plan to divide communities and religions and pit them against each other.

Mufti raised apprehensions at the hurry in carrying out the delimitation in Jammu and Kashmir.

Trains back on track in J&K after 11 months

PNS ■ JAMMU

After a gap of 11 long months the local trains in Jammu and Kashmir resumed their services from Monday.

These train services remained suspended during covid-19 pandemic.

In Kashmir valley, the train services between Banihal to Baramulla were resumed with only one pair of rail while in Jammu region DMU services were made operational between Pathankot and Udhampur. Majority of government employees and local businessmen availing the services heaved a sigh of relief as they boarded trains to reach their workplaces.

Chief Area Manager Northern Railways in Srinagar, Saqib Yousuf said initially only two trains will operate and the number of trains will be increased in the days to come.



The local train between Banihal and Baramulla covers a distance of 137 km across 16 stations. Large number of people along the route rely on the services to commute in the absence of proper road connectivity.

Before the launch of the train services in Kashmir valley, a road opening party also detected an Improvised explo-

sive device, a few hundred meters away from the Nowgam railway station near a bridge. Vehicular traffic was also suspended in the area till the teams of Bomb disposal squad defused the IED in a controlled manner.

According to the official sources, "the traffic was restored and the train services too plied normally".

Guidelines launched for integrating non-alcoholic fatty liver disease with NPCDCS for better mgmt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

In view of increase in the Non-alcoholic fatty liver diseases in the country, the Union Health Ministry on Monday launched the operational guidelines for the integration of the non-communicable diseases with NPCDCS (National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cancer, Diabetes, Cardiovascular Diseases and Stroke) for its better management.

Dr Harsh Vardhan said, "NAFLD, the abnormal accumulation of fat in the liver in the absence of secondary causes of fatty liver, such as harmful alcohol use, viral hepatitis, or medications is a serious health concern as it encompasses a spectrum of liver abnormalities, from a simple non-alcoholic fatty liver (NAFL, simple fatty liver disease) to more advanced ones like non-alcoholic steatohepatitis (NASH), cirrhosis and even liver cancer.

"Globally, NASH caused 40 lakh prevalent cases of compensated cirrhosis in 1990, which increased to 94 lakh cases in 2017."

Underscoring the importance of tackling NAFLD as a step to tackling the country's burden of non-communicable diseases, he noted.

"Globally, NASH caused 40 lakh prevalent cases of compensated cirrhosis in 1990, which increased to 94 lakh cases in 2017"

"Epidemiological studies suggest the prevalence of NAFLD is around 9 per cent to 32 per cent of the general population in India with a higher prevalence in those with overweight or obesity and those with diabetes or prediabetes. Researchers have found NAFLD in 40 per cent to 80 per cent of people who have type 2 diabetes and in 30 per cent to 90 per cent of people who are obese," Harsh Vardhan said.

"Studies also suggest that people with NAFLD have a greater chance of developing cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular disease is the most common cause of death in NAFLD. Once the disease develops, there is no specific cure available.

"Health promotion and prevention aspects targeting weight reduction, healthy lifestyle, and control of aforementioned risk factors are the mainstays to disease progression and prevent the mortality and morbidity due to NAFLD," he added.

BMC to lodge FIRs for home quarantine violation

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Having established that asymptomatic patients and high-risk contacts are contributing to the spread of Covid-19 in Mumbai, the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has among other things decided to lodge FIRs against these two categories of people and impose on them for breaking the home-quarantine norms.

In view of the multiplying Covid-19 cases in Mumbai and areas of Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) during the past few days, the BMC has drawn up a strategy to counter the increasing incidence of pandemic cases.

The authorities attribute the sudden increase in the number of Covid-19 cases to the resumption of suburban locals from February 1, a disturbing trend being witnessed among sizeable sections of citizens, who are not wearing masks and

following the pandemic norms and the fact that asymptomatic patients and high-risk contacts are stepping out of their homes and going to public places flouting the health protocols.

Having found out that hundreds of asymptomatic patients and high-risk contacts have visited public places like shops, malls and garden areas exposing others to contract the Covid-19 virus, the BMC has decided to lodge FIR against those breaking home-quarantine norms and impose hefty fines on such violators.

"In the last two days there have been 1,500-odd cases who are asymptomatic. In these people, there are no symptoms at all. If these 1,500 people start roaming in the streets, in a fortnight's time the number of cases would be 15,000," Mumbai Municipal Commissioner Iqbal Singh Chahal said.

Chahal said that recently a lady from Powai, who is a high-

risk contact travelled out of Mumbai and stayed in Nashik for a couple of days. "Asymptomatic patients and high-risk contacts are supposed to be in home-quarantine," he said.

Chahal said that in line with the strict guidelines issued by the BMC to check the spread of the Covid-19 in the city, asymptomatic patients would be stamped.

"We will request them and ask them to be at home, it would be an appeal. If they do not follow, we will put them in institutional quarantine. We are also telling the housing society managements to ensure that unless the patients test negative they should not be allowed to step out of their homes," the Mumbai civic chief said.

As a measure to keep track of asymptomatic patients, the BMC employees will call the home headline numbers of asymptomatic patients at least five times in a day to check if they are at home.

Kerala woman who falsely alleged rape by health official to face police action

Kochi: The Kerala High Court on Monday Directed the police to register a case against a woman who had made a false complaint that she was raped by a junior health inspector while under quarantine.

After examining the inquiry report filed by police, the court observed that it has been revealed that "it is a false case" and the police decided to take legal action against her under IPC Section 182 (false information, with intent to cause public servant to use his lawful power to the injury of another person). "I don't want to make any further observation in it because a case is going to be registered against the de facto complainant and the same is to be investigated by the investigating officer. The officer concerned will investigate the case, untrammelled by any observation in this order." PTI



Congress Legislature Party Leader in Telangana Assembly Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu, interacting with farmers during his 14-day Railulatho Mukhamukhi Yatra (March for direct interaction with farmers) to express solidarity with them against the Centre's three farm laws. The Yatra, which began on February 9 from Bheemsari in Adilabad, culminated at Konijarla in Khammam on Monday

Covid rebound: K'taka closes borders with Kerala again

Kasaragod (Ker): With the Karnataka government reinstating stricter control of transit passengers from Kerala in view of increasing COVID-19 positive cases, people bound to Mangaluru and other parts of Dakshina Kannada from here for various purposes, including medical needs and studies, are in a fix again.

Long queues of vehicles could be seen in the border areas since morning as Karnataka authorities sealed many roads, including national highways and restricted entry only for those with COVID-19 negative certificates.

The Dakshina Kannada authorities sealed all borders from Monda, except four to cross over, sources said.

According to Karnataka officials at the borders, those who wish to enter the state have to produce COVID-19 negative certificate through an RT-PCR test taken 72 hours prior to their cross over, sources said.

Nettanige-Mudnuru in Puttur taluk and Jalsore in Sullia, to verify and allow people's entry into Karnataka.

Meanwhile, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the issue would be brought to the notice of the Centre.

"Karnataka's move closing the border roads and blocking vehicles is against the central government's guidelines that no state should impose any restriction on the inter-state travel," he said. Speaking at the COVID-19 review meeting at Thiruvananthapuram, he also said state DGP Loknath Behera had already brought the matter to the notice of his counterpart in Karnataka, who assured that vehicles carrying essential commodities would be exempted from the restrictions. The state government would continue to be in touch with the Karnataka authorities to resolve the issue completely, he added. The residents in and around Kasaragod, the northernmost district of Kerala, have been thronging Mangaluru in Karnataka for decades for treatment at the specialty hospitals there. PTI



Former Union Minister Alphons Kannanthanam and President Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Dr Vinay Sahasrabudhe unveiling a book titled 'Runway to Skilled India' authored by noted educationist Dr Darlie O Koshy on Sunday in the national Capital. Former Cabinet Secretary Ajit Seth, Chairman, Odisha Skill Development Authority (OSDA), Dr Subroto Bagchi, are among others who have dealt with multi-faceted dimension of the book thus bringing a rich mosaic of ideas and possibilities to realise the dream of 'Skilled India'. Koshy has been heading as DG & CEO, ATDC & IAM under the aegis of AEPC while shaping a new skill scape of a 'Skill Pyramid'.

FIR against NCLT's member on sexual abuse charges

Kolkata: The Kolkata Police has registered an FIR against NCLT's Technical Member HC Suri for sexual abuse charges on a complaint filed by a young lawyer who is associated with the tribunal as a research associate.

The case was registered at Hare Street Police station under IPC 354. The woman lawyer has accused Suri of repeatedly calling her to his chamber and hotels. In her detailed complaint and FIR available to the media, the young lawyer alleged that Suri was sexually harassing her. "As no official residence is allotted to him, he stays in five-star hotels and force me to come to these hotels apart from calling me to his chambers and

slaking always," said the lawyer who is working as a research associate on a contractual basis with the NCL. "The attitude of HC Suri was not proper towards me. He used to call me to his chamber when no one was around and stalked me whenever he got an opportunity," said the woman lawyer accusing Suri of demanding sexual favours.

The woman lawyer has forwarded her complaint to Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and NCLT's headquarters in Delhi. Kolkata Police is expected to summon Suri soon. Currently, FIR is charged under sections of IPC 354A and 354 D which are cognizable and non-bailable offences. PNS

The holding of rural local body (panchayat) elections had emerged as a major flashpoint between the SEC and the YSR Congress Party government, which have been at loggerheads for more than a year

officer. Indicating the high level of participation in the polls, Kumar added, more than 80 per cent voters exercised their franchise.

He appreciated the Director General of Police, Chief Secretary and the Health department for their cooperation and services.

The holding of rural local body (panchayat) elections had emerged as a major flashpoint between the SEC and the YSR Congress Party government, which have been at loggerheads for more than a year.

The panchayat elections were originally slated in 2018 when the tenure of the local bodies expired back then but Kumar chose not to hold them and waited until 2021.

However, Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy proposed the idea of going to the polls in March 2020 but Kumar refused holding them citing the coronavirus pandemic, which had led to a major row between the two.

Reddy accused Kumar of acting at the behest of opposition leader N. Chandrababu Naidu, during whose tenure he was appointed and even tried to replace him, which backfired as the SEC has constitutional protection equal to a Supreme Court judge.

With just one more month left as the SEC, Kumar has successfully conducted the polls which the state government could not stall with their deferment appeal being dismissed in the Supreme Court. IANS



FIRST COLUMN

MUST REDUCE MONEY POWER IN POLITICS

What is needed is political will and a consensus on reforms in the electoral system



KALYANI SHANKAR

Funding is vital for a political party and more so for one that is not in power. The Congress Party is going through a severe financial crunch and has sought help from its Chief Ministers and office-bearers. The forthcoming Assembly elections in Kerala, Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry have increased pressure on the party, which is in power only in Punjab, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Puducherry. The cash crunch in the 'Grand Old Party', which was in power for 56 years, is because of various reasons. It has been receiving fewer funds for the last six years because of a perception that the Congress is unlikely to resume its primacy. Second, the BJP has overtaken the Congress since 2014. Third, it is facing a leadership crisis and fourth, regional parties are also vying for donations. Fifth, any party's funding from private donors depends on public trust. Earlier the Congress had fund managers in each State, but this system has collapsed now due to central control.

The party is in need of funds to run State units, headquarters, pay salaries to the staff, for election campaigns, for building a new party office and so on. In 2018, it touched rock bottom and launched a 40-day booth committee fundraising programme in October appealing for funds. In fact, the Congress had to resort to crowdfunding.



Some of the most popular fundraising methods for political parties are individual and corporate funding. The BJP's phenomenal ability to capture a massive chunk of corporate donations is closely connected to the Congress' sharp deceleration and financial woes. The BJP has been occupying the pole position for long in tapping corporate contributions, even when the Congress was in power, with the saffron party allegedly cornering 90 per cent of the funding.

In recent years, the Modi Government has introduced three significant changes in political funding and parties can now receive foreign donations. Any company can give any amount of money to a political party and third, any individual, group of people or firm can donate money anonymously to a party through electoral bonds. These bonds have been available since January 2018 and the gap in corporate donations between the BJP and the Congress is growing wider. Whatever be the reason, such a major gap in political contributions between the ruling and the main Opposition party is not good for democracy.

The Congress received ₹139 crore as donations during 2019-2020, according to an Election Commission (EC) report. It is still the second most prosperous party but far behind the BJP. According to the Congress' constitution, the lawmakers and workers are supposed to pay one per cent of their income to the party but this does not happen. It needs to encourage its members to donate more and emulate Congress leader Kapil Sibal, who, in 2020 was the highest individual donor and had given ₹3 crore to the party fund. A political party may acquire funds through donations during rallies, relief funds, the sale of coupons and other miscellaneous allocations. However, if poll expenses are cut there is no need for a party to collect huge funds.

The EC has a long list of suggestions including reforms of political parties, auditing of accounts, checking black money and capping of anonymous donations to 20 per cent. Several panels have recommended poll reforms. This included the Goswami Committee (1990), the Vohra Committee (1993) and the Law Commission. One of the suggestions was State funding. The need of the hour is electoral reforms and it is time to push through these reforms to cleanse the electoral system so that money power becomes less. What is needed is political will and a consensus on reforms.

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

Time for Govt to make a clear-cut choice

If the Centre allows gas producers to charge what they want, one shudders to even think of where the fertiliser and power subsidy bill will reach



UTTAM GUPTA

The State-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is forming a new wholly-owned subsidiary company with the objective of sourcing, marketing and trading natural gas. The company is already into exploration and production of gas (besides crude oil) which it sells to a variety of industries manufacturing fertilisers, power, chemicals, petrochemicals, CNG, gas for household consumption and so on.

So what has prompted it to set up a separate company solely for the purpose of trading and marketing of gas? It is not a simple case of business restructuring, but an attempt to circumvent control on the price of gas imposed by the Union Government. To understand how it seeks to do so, let us have a look at the extant pricing structure.

Under the pricing guidelines effective since November 2014, for all domestic supplies from fields given under the New Exploration and Licensing Policy (NELP), as also blocks given on nomination to ONGC and Oil India Limited (OIL) before the NELP, the price — call it normal price — is a weighted average of prices at four international locations in the US, the UK, Canada and Russia. It is revised every six months in a financial year and the current price, from October 1, 2020, is \$1.79 per million Btu (British thermal unit).

Also, under a special package for deep/ultra-deep, high-pressure/high-temperature (HP/HT) fields announced in March 2016, the supplies are allowed a market-based price, subject to a ceiling which is linked to the prices of alternate fuels, including fuel oil, naphtha and LNG. The current ceiling price is \$4.06 per million Btu, known as the "premium" price, the applicable price is arrived at based on competitive bidding — in which earlier, affiliates of gas producers were not allowed to participate. If the discovered price exceeds the ceiling, then the buyer pays only the ceiling price. From October 2020, the bar on participation of affiliates of the gas producing firm was removed. This means that the producer can buy its own gas (albeit through its affiliate) and sell it to third parties at a higher rate thereby circumventing the ceiling price. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), which produces gas from the KG-D6 field in the Krishna Godavari basin, did precisely this. In an auction on February 5, offering 7.5 mmscmd (million standard cubic meter per day) of new gas from this field, its subsidiary Reliance O2C Limited bought 4.8 mmscmd at a price of \$4.06 per million Btu and sold it for \$6.7 per million Btu to GAIL India Limited (Ltd), Shell and others.

The ONGC wants to do a repeat of what Reliance has done by forming a wholly-owned subsidiary which will buy any new gas coming from the former's deep/ultra-deep fields such as KG-D5 also in the KG basin (projected at about 15 mmscmd) and in turn, sell it to firms such as Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL) at a price much higher than \$4.06 per million Btu. Being a company whose majority is owned by the Centre, any decision by the ONGC Board could not have been taken without its prior approval. In other words, the Centre is amenable to the gas producer breaking the ceiling.



IF THE CENTRE FEELS THAT A HIGH PRICE TO GAS PRODUCERS IS THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE THEM DELIVER MORE SUPPLIES, THEN IT SHOULD REMOVE ALL CONTROLS ON FERTILISERS, POWER AND SO ON AND LET THEM ADJUST AS PER MARKET FORCES. IF IT CAN'T, IT SHOULD REGULATE GAS PRICES AND STRICTLY ADHERE TO THE NOVEMBER 2014 GUIDELINES

The writer is a New Delhi-based policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.



ing (set by none other than the Centre itself) and selling at a higher market discovered price. Put simply, the Government's initial decision to put a cap on the price gets nullified by its subsequent action of allowing an affiliate of the gas producer to bid.

The supplies from fields given under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) (introduced in July 2017) are already eligible for market-based pricing. This also applies to unconventional hydrocarbons such as shale gas, coal bed methane (CBM) from the fields awarded under the NELP. Further, supplies from the so-called marginal fields (a total of 149) previously with the ONGC and OIL and recently auctioned to private entities, also qualify for complete freedom of pricing. Now, gas companies are building pressure on the Government to alter the mechanism of fixing even the normal price applicable to supplies from fields given under NELP and nomination blocks to the ONGC and OIL before the NELP. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas had agreed to look into this and even set up a committee. That was in October, 2020 when an idea was mooted to fix a floor price linked to the Japan-Korea Marker (JKM) — a benchmark index used to determine LNG tariff in North Asia — with a discount. This would have yielded a floor of \$4 million Btu.

Putting all the pieces together, one gets a sense that gas firms will

receive price on an escalating scale with a minimum of \$4 per million Btu and maximum, hitting any level depending on the demand-supply scenario. Is this what the Modi Government had planned for?

It may be worthwhile to go back to 2014 when it had undertaken a review of the gas pricing formula finalised by the then UPA Government (January 2014) which could not be implemented in view of impending general elections. Then Team Modi had categorically rejected market-based pricing, arguing that domestic supply of gas being far short of demand, this would result in high price, which users, particularly the fertiliser industry, power and city gas — they account for nearly three-fourth of total gas use — can't afford. In fertilisers, bulk of the gas is used for producing urea, whose maximum retail price (MRP) is controlled at a low level to make it affordable to farmers. The excess cost of supply is reimbursed as subsidy to manufacturers. If gas is priced high, with the MRP remaining unchanged, this will result in higher subsidy, which the Government wants to avoid.

Likewise, States want to pay less on power subsidy even as they order a big slice of it to be supplied at low tariff or even free to farmers and poor households, unrelated to cost.

These overarching considerations weighed heavily on the ruling dispensation when it decided

to stick to price regulation. For the same reason, it exercises control over the allocation of gas. Of the total supply, 31 per cent is given to power, 24 per cent to fertilisers and 22 per cent is allotted for city gas. Since then, nothing has changed as to warrant a move towards market-based pricing. Neither has the Government done away with control on urea's MRP nor do States have any plans to shed supply of free power to key constituents.

In this scenario, if the Government allows gas producers to charge what they want, one shudders to even think of where the fertiliser and power subsidy bill will reach (every one dollar per million Btu hike in gas price increases urea subsidy by about ₹4,000 crore annually). To accommodate the rising subsidy, it may have to further loosen the already relaxed fiscal deficit trajectory, outlined by the Finance Minister on February 1, for the next five years (6.8 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product in 2021-22 gliding down to 4.5 per cent in 2025-26).

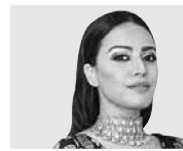
The Government needs to make a clear-cut choice. If it feels that high price to gas producers is the only way to make them deliver more supplies, then it should remove all controls on fertilisers, power and so on and let them adjust as per market forces. If it can't, it should regulate gas prices and strictly adhere to the November 2014 guidelines — annulling all subsequent modifications.

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO REFUSED TO DO ITEM NUMBERS AND BIG HERO FILMS WHICH MADE THE ENTIRE 'BULLYWOODIA' GANG TURN AGAINST ME.

—ACTOR

KANGANA RANAUT



LOVED YOUR DANCING IN THIS ITEM NUMBER IN THE FILM RAJJO. YOU ARE A GREAT PERFORMER AND A GREAT DANCER KANGANA.

—ACTOR

SWARA BHASKER

India must migrate to 'happy fuels' for a sustainable future

Energy independence needs to be a major focus area to shape the country as a DESH, i.e. having Development, Energy, Security and Harmony

Today, human societies have a wider array of options towards making lifestyle and economic choices. But it is becoming increasingly clear that all our choices need to remain within the 1.5° Celsius Paris Agreement goals, for shaping our pathways responsibly and leaving a cleaner environment as a legacy. All too often, investments in the environment are seen as costs but the reality is that spending on green initiatives now would be the biggest cost saving of all times. It is high time we realised that the economy is a subset of the environment and not vice versa and a green recovery will provide thriving economics and a safer planet for everyone.

World leaders have come together on the need to counter the challenges of climate change and the COP-26 International Climate Summit, scheduled to be held later this



ASHUTOSH KARNATAK

The writer is Member, Appellate Tribunal for Electricity. The views expressed are personal.

year, is going to be a pivotal moment for the world to agree on actionable steps to prevent the catastrophic warming of our planet. India, being the world's fourth-largest carbon emitter with a population of 1.3 billion people, requires significant strides in greening its energy ecosystem with more sustainable and benign technologies, including fast tracking the adoption of renewable resources for propelling socio-economic development.

Our country's transition to a fully sustainable energy system shall be enabled by the push for cleaner energy and decarbonising the energy sector, which accounts for a quarter of global emissions, will be vital for the same.

Fossil fuels make up 75 per cent of India's energy mix (with coal as the major contributor), while the spectrum of renewable power including hydro,

solar and wind energy with zero carbon emissions comprises just 10 per cent, the rest being biomass, urban and industrial waste power. A desired change in the energy mix will depend on innovative technologies, growing energy demand, strong wind and solar resources, policy support and growing investments to ensure smart, reliable, clean and affordable energy to over a billion people with an energy consumption rate growing faster than all major economies in the world.

One of the key success indicators of any country is positive balance of payments with exports in surplus to imports. Our economy is largely dependent upon the import of oil which is to the tune of ₹7.5 lakh crore annually (15 per cent of the total import bill). Reduction in this will go a long way in fostering India's energy



independence and a solid action plan is required to gradually migrate from the use of fossil fuels to renewable sources, including the usage of hydrogen in the energy sector.

This will ultimately lead us to the basket of "Happy Fuels" i.e., a fuel bringing happiness to self, society and the nation by way of being economical, environment friendly, safer with more affordability and better reach.

To reduce petroleum use, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, air pollution, and con-

tribute to more diverse and efficient energy infrastructure, the Centre has focused on pioneering initiatives like the International Solar Alliance and new initiatives like 'One Sun, One World, One Grid', World Solar Bank and so on.

Technological progress is on the cusp of making decarbonisation economically viable. India's story on solar energy encapsulates the economic argument to switch to cleaner sources of power generation. The most recent auction for solar energy received bids of a record low of ₹2 per unit indicating that the transition to an economy with net-zero emissions can both be viable and sustainable. Green hydrogen as an energy resource is gaining momentum. Already major developed countries have forayed in this area, with Japan being the leader. Produced from renewable energy, green

hydrogen is a zero-emission multipurpose fuel used for long-term energy storage and helps decarbonise transport, heating and industrial processes such as steel and cement making. With huge renewable potential, India has a tremendous opportunity to explore the green hydrogen route to kick-off energy transition.

The Centre, in the recent Budget, announced the establishment of a Hydrogen Mission, which is a step in the right direction. Several initiatives to convert coal to gas are underway and migration to the hydrogen economy needs to be ramped up in the same way.

Significantly, businesses must maintain a balance to protect, sustain and enhance human and natural resources that will be needed in the future. Organisations are required to shift from wealth creation to value creation with

increased social responsibility.

If we are to match the pace of energy development in the world, following a super-conscious approach and methods need to be adopted. We must develop a vision with a target to become energy independent by 2047; develop a hybrid model i.e., blending of conventional and renewable energy sources and formulate an action plan. There must be aggressive implementation for achieving scale and affordability, plus energy efficiency must be a Key Performance Area of organisations. Schools, colleges, civil society and organisations should partner and engage Generation Next in making a change for a better tomorrow.

Energy independence needs to be a major focus area to shape India as a DESH i.e., having Development, Energy, Security and Harmony.

China asks US to halt support to separatist forces in Tibet, HK, Xinjiang

Beijing: China on Monday urged the US to stop “smearing” the ruling Communist Party of China (CPC) and it's one-party political system, lift sanctions on trade and halt Washington's backing of “separatist forces” in Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong and Xinjiang.

In his annual speech at the Lanting Forum, focussing on China-US ties, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said the Biden administration should “adjust” the hardline policy pursued by former President Donald Trump towards Beijing to check its growing influence.

“We have no intention to challenge or replace the United States. We are ready to have peaceful coexistence and seek common development with the United States,” Wang said.

“Likewise, we hope the United States will respect China's core interests, national dignity, and rights to development. We urge the United States to stop smearing the CPC and China's political sys-

tem, stop conniving at or even supporting the erroneous words and actions of separatist forces for ‘Taiwan independence’, and stop undermining China's sovereignty and security on internal affairs concerning Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Tibet,” he said.

“We hope that the US side will adjust its policies as soon as possible, among others, remove unreasonable tariffs on Chinese goods, lift its unilateral sanctions on Chinese companies and research and educational institutes, and abandon irrational suppression of China,” he said.

The relations between China and the US are at an all time low. The two countries are currently engaged in a bitter confrontation over various issues, including trade, the origins of the novel coronavirus pandemic, the communist giant's aggressive military moves in the disputed South China Sea and human rights.

US President Joe Biden

who spoke to his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping for over two hours in his first phone call on February 11 later said there would be “repercussions” for China's human rights abuses and he made the message clear to his Chinese counterpart in his talks.

In a CNN town hall on February 17, Biden said he stressed to Xi during their long conversation that the US would continue to assert its role as a voice for human rights on the world stage, including at the United Nations and other international agencies.

“We must speak up for human rights. It's who we are,” the Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post quoted Biden as saying.

“There will be repercussions for China, and [Xi] knows that,” he said. China is trying very hard to become the world leader and to get that moniker, and to be able to do that, they have to gain the confidence of other countries. **PTI**

Mauritius, India share common ambition of working for safe, secure Indian Ocean: PM Jugnauth

PTI ■ PORT LOUIS

Mauritius and India have the common ambition of working for a safe, secure and prosperous Indian Ocean, Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth said on Monday after his meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar during which they discussed a range of issues, including ensuring peace and respect for the rule of law in the strategically-vital Indo-Pacific region.

Jaishankar arrived here on Sunday from the Maldives on the last leg of his two-nation tour.

“This morning I had a very fruitful meeting with Jaishankar where we reviewed several aspects of our cooperation and relationship and how best to move forward,” Jugnauth while jointly addressing the media with Jaishankar.

Mauritius and India remain committed to working together bilaterally and as regional partners to enhance capacity for sustainable management of marine resources and to address challenges in the maritime domains, he said.

“We have the common ambition and responsibility of

preserving and working for a safe, secure and the prosperous Indian Ocean,” he said.

“Ensuring peace and respect for the rule of law in the Indo-Pacific region was one of the issues which I discussed with Dr Jaishankar during our meeting today,” Jugnauth said, in a veiled reference to China.

India, the US and several other world powers have been talking about the need to ensure a free, open and thriving Indo-Pacific in the backdrop of China's rising military manoeuvring in the region.

The Chinese military is also actively eying the strategic Indian Ocean region to step up Beijing influence.

China claims nearly all of the disputed South China Sea, though Taiwan, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam all claim parts of it. Beijing has built artificial islands and military installations in the South China Sea.

“I welcome the renewed commitment of the QUAD countries to upholding a rules-based international order under them respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, the rule of law, transparency, freedom of navigation in the international waters and peaceful res-

olution of disputes,” Jugnauth said.

“Adherence to these principles is crucial to the maintenance of peace and friendliness among nations based on the respect for the rule of law... I have no doubt that the visit of Dr Jaishankar will add a new impetus to the excellent relationship between Mauritius and India,” he said.

Quad ministerial is an informal grouping of four countries, namely, Australia, India, Japan and the United States.

In 2017, the four countries gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the “Quad” or the Quadrilateral coalition to counter China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region.”We have converging views on the need to work together to strengthen the rules-based international order, global governance and institutions including those of the United Nations system,” Jugnauth said.

“India is helping more than 50 countries, including Mauritius, to boost space technology. We continue to look to India as an indispensable partner in building up air capabilities to derive benefits from space technology,” he said.

Jaishankar meets Mauritius Foreign Minister, reviews ‘excellent’ bilateral relations

Port Louis: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday called on Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth and held talks with Foreign Minister M Alan Ganoo during which they reviewed the “excellent” bilateral relations and successful development partnership.

Jaishankar, who arrived here in India's strategically key maritime neighbour in the Indian Ocean region on Sunday night from the Maldives on the last leg of his two-nation tour, also reiterated that India will be a ready partner in Mauritius' economic recovery and revival efforts.

“Delighted to begin Mauritius visit with a meeting with FM Alan Ganoo. Reviewed our excellent bilateral relations & successful development partnership. Reiterated that India will be a ready partner in Mauritius' economic recovery & revival efforts,” Jaishankar tweeted.

Later, Jaishankar called on Prime Minister Jugnauth, who is of Indian-origin, and handed him over 100,000 additional doses of commercially procured ‘Made in India’ COVID-19 vaccines.

“India's helping hand - always over the horizon. Symbolically handed over 100,000 additional doses of commercially procured Made in India Covid vaccines,” he tweeted. He also conveyed warm greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Prime Minister Jugnauth. “Commend management of the pandemic under his leadership,” Jaishankar tweeted.

“Comprehensive discussions on the status of implementation of various infrastructure projects. Appreciate the efficiency of the Mauritius side in taking them forward,” he said in another tweet. He will also call on President Prithvirajsing Roopun, who is also of Indian-origin.

During his visit, Jaishankar will review all aspects of bilateral relations, ongoing implementation of various infrastructure projects being carried out by India in Mauritius, and hold discussions on bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest including India's assistance to Mauritius. **PTI**

Italian ambassador among 3 killed in attack in Congo

Kinshasa (Congo): The Italian ambassador to Congo, an Italian carabinieri police officer and their Congolese driver were killed on Monday in an attack on a U.N. Convoy in an area that is home to myriad rebel groups, the Foreign Ministry and local people said.

The ambush occurred as the convoy was travelling from Goma, Congo's eastern regional capital, to visit a World Food Program school feeding project in Rutshuru, the U.N. Agency said in a statement.

WFP said it was seeking information from local authorities, as the ambush occurred on a road that had previously been cleared for travel without security escorts.

Luca Attanasio, Italy's ambassador to the country since 2017, carabinieri officer Vittorio Iacovacci and their driver were killed. Other members of the convoy were injured, WFP said.

The attack occurred in the territory of Nyiragongo, in North Kivu, the same area, known as the “three antennas,” where two Britons were kidnapped by unidentified armed men in 2018, said Mambo Kaway, president of a local civil society group.

“There were five people aboard the vehicle, including the Italian ambas-

sador,” Kaway said. “The driver died after being shot with several bullets, and others were wounded,” he said.

“The situation is very tense,” he added. The wounded were taken to a nearby UN Hospital. The North Kivu governor, Carly Nzanzu Kasivita, said that the vehicles were taken hostage and escorted into the bush and that when local people saw them, they alerted the authorities.

The Congolese army and park guards for Virunga National Park came to the rescue, he said.

“There was an exchange of fire. The attackers fired at the bodyguard and the ambassador,” the governor said, adding that the ambassador later died from his wounds. Attanasio, a 43-year-old career diplomat, leaves a wife and three young children. The attack, a few kilometers north of the regional capital of Goma, was just next to the Virunga National Park. Last month gunmen shot and killed at least six rangers in the Rutshuru area of the park.

Marie Tumba Nzenza, Minister of Foreign Affairs, sent her condolences and promised the Italian government that the Congolese government would do all it could to investigate and find out who is behind the killings. **AP**

UN to rich nations: Don't undermine COVAX vaccine program

Berlin: The head of the World Health Organization pleaded with rich countries on Monday to check before ordering additional Covid-19 vaccine shots for themselves whether that undermines efforts to get vaccine shots to poorer nations.

Wealthy nations have snapped up several billion vaccine doses while some countries in the developing world have little or none.

European nations have given financial support to the U.N.-backed COVAX effort to get vaccines to the world's most vulnerable people and are considering sharing some of their own doses — though they haven't specified when.

On Friday, leaders of the Group of Seven industrial powers said they would accelerate global vaccine development and deployment and support “affordable and equitable access to vaccines” and treatments for COVID-19. They cited a collective USD 7.5 billion from the G-7 to U.N.-backed efforts.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus thanked the G-7 countries for their “significant” pledges.

But he said after talks Monday with German President Frank-

Walter Steinmeier that “even if you have the money, if you cannot use the money to buy vaccines ... having the money doesn't mean anything.”

He said some rich countries' approaches to manufacturers to secure more vaccines are “affecting the deals with COVAX, and even the amount that was allocated for COVAX was reduced because of this.” He didn't name those countries or give other details.

Tedros added that rich countries need to “cooperate in respecting the deals that COVAX did” and make sure before they seek more vaccines that their requests don't undermine those deals.

“But I don't think they're asking that question,” he said.

Tedros, who has previously warned that the world faces a “catastrophic moral failure” if COVID-19 vaccines are not distributed fairly, said he understands the political pressures leaders in high-income countries face.

They should, he added, tell voters that “the best way to protect you is not only to vaccinate you, but vaccinate the rest of the world, share the vaccine with the rest of the world.” **AP**

Dubai's Emirates seeks key role in global vaccine delivery

Dubai: The belly of the Emirates plane that touched down in Dubai early Sunday from Brussels was stuffed with precious cargo: tens of thousands of doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine.

The arrival was part of an effort by the Middle East's biggest airline to pivot from shuttling people to shipping cargo — and grabbing a central role in the global vaccine delivery race.

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to clobber the aviation industry, the disaster has hit long-haul carriers like Emirates hardest. So the airline is ferrying around the very substance it hopes will get passengers back into its seats and revive the flagging travel sector.

Over the weekend, workers scurried around the tarmac at the Dubai International Airport, unloading several aluminum containers crammed with vaccine vials and dry ice into a vast florescent-lit cargo terminal.

The key transit hub, previously used for the global shipment of pharmaceuticals, is now at the center of a growing vaccine supply network based in the United Arab Emirates.

State-owned carrier Emirates already has delivered millions of doses to Latin America, South Africa and Egypt from major manufacturing hubs in India and elsewhere. **AP**

China backs India hosting this year's BRICS summit: Official

Beijing: China on Monday expressed its support for India in hosting this year's BRICS summit and said it will work with New Delhi to strengthen the cooperation among the five-member grouping of emerging economies.

India has assumed the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Chairmanship for 2021 and is set to hold this year's summit.

On February 19, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar launched India's BRICS 2021 website at the BRICS Secretariat at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in New Delhi. Asked about India assuming the BRICS Chairmanship this year, China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here that Beijing backs New Delhi in hosting the summit. “The BRICS is a cooperation mechanism with global

influence consisting of emerging economies and developing countries. In recent years, it has seen greater solidarity and deeper practical cooperation and greater influence,” Wang said.

BRICS is now a “positive, stable and constructive force” in international affairs, he said, adding that China attaches importance to this mechanism.

“We are committed to deepening strategic partnership within it to consolidate solidarity and cooperation,” Wang said.

“We support India hosting this year's meeting and will work with it and other members to strengthen communication dialogue and consolidate the three-pillar cooperation, expand BRICS plus cooperation and work for greater progress under BRICS and also help the world to defeat Covid-19, resume economic growth and improve global governance,” he said. **PTI**



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SUPAUL COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, SUPAUL
 Beena Road, Ward No. – 24, Supaul - 852131
 Website:-www.scesupaul.org and Email id: supaulcollege@gmail.com

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER
 Through e-Procurement mode only on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in
Tender Notice:- SCE/E-TEN/01/2020-21

E-tenders are invited from reputed and experienced OEMS/Bidders under two bid system for supply of equipmentsfor laboratories of the departments of Civil, Mechanical, Electrical and ECE of Supaul College of Engineering, Supaul.

Sl.No	Scope of work	Estimated cost (in rupees)	Cost of tender document t (in rupees)	Tender Processing Fee(Non-Refundable) (Inclusive of service tax @18%) to be paid through e-payment mode (i.e. NEFT/RTGS/Net Banking, Credit Card/ Debit card) (in Rupees)	Earnest Money Deposit(in rupees)
1	Quotation for supply of equipments for laboratories of Civil Engineering Department	NA	Rs. 1000	Rs. 1180	Rs. 20,000
2	Quotation for supply of equipments for laboratories of Mechanical Engineering Department	NA	Rs. 1000	Rs. 1180	Rs. 20,000
3	Quotation for supply of equipments for laboratories of Electrical& ECE Department	NA	Rs. 1000	Rs. 1180	Rs. 20,000

Tender Program:

1	RFP No. Date of Publication	
2	Period of sale of Bid Document	01.03.2021 to 10.03.2021 on http://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in
3	Last Date & Time for submission of Bids	11.03.2021 upto 12:30 PM
4	Date of pre-bid conference	03.03.2021 (At- Supaul College of Engineering, Supaul, Beena Road, Ward No- 24, Supaul- 852131)
5	Bid validity period	One Year
6	Original copy of the EMD and DD as the cost of the bid and affidavit shall be submitted at address mentioned.	11.03.2021 upto 5:00 PM (At- Supaul College of Engineering, Supaul, Beena Road, Ward No- 24, Supaul- 852131)
7	Date & Time of Opening of Technical Bids	12.03.2021 at 10:30 PM
8	Date & Time of Opening of Financial Bids	To be announced later by competent authority only on www.eproc.bihar.gov.in

- For support related to e-tendering process, bidders may contact at following address “e-procurement HELP DESK, First Floor, plot No.- M/22, Road No.- 25, Sri Krishna Nagar, Bank of India Compound, Patna-800001, Contact No.: 0612-2523006;7542028164” Vendor may visit the link “Vendor Info” www.eproc.bihar.gov.in
- “Tender Processing fee is mandatory to be paid though online mode i.e. Internet Payment gateway (NEFT/RTGS/Net Banking, Credit Card/ Debit card)”
- “Bids along with necessary online payments must be submitted through e-Procurement portal www.eproc.bihar.gov.in before the date and time specified in the NIT. The department doesn't take any responsibility for the delay/Non Submission of Tender/Non Reconciliation of online payment caused due to Non-availability of Internet Connection, Network Traffic/Holidays or any other reason”.
- Any Corrigendum/Addendum or date extension notice will be given on the e-procurement website (www.eproc.bihar.gov.in) only.

For further details please visit website: state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar

Principal
Supaul College of Engineering, Supaul

PR- 013216 (Sci. & Tech.) 2020-21

किसी भी तरह आपका को आनन्दको अरुदा सुखको हेतु आपका प्रयत्न को निरन्तरतापूर्ण न. 1070 पर समर्थ दिया जा सकता है।

Protests swell after Myanmar junta raises specter of force

Yangon: Protesters gathered in Myanmar's biggest city on Monday despite the ruling junta's threat to use lethal force against people who join a general strike against the military's takeover three weeks ago.

More than 1,000 protesters gathered near the U.S. Embassy in Yangon despite barriers blocking the way, but left to avoid a confrontation after 20 military trucks with riot police arrived nearby. Protests continued in other parts of the city, including next to Sule Pagoda, a traditional gathering point.

Factories, workplaces and shops were shuttered across the country Monday in response to the call for a nationwide strike. The closings extended to the capital, Naypyitaw.

The junta had warned against a general strike in a public announcement Sunday night on state television broadcaster MRTV.

“It is found that the protesters have raised their incitement towards riot and anarchy mob on the day of 22 February. Protesters are now incit-

ing the people, especially emotional teenagers and youths, to a confrontation path where they will suffer the loss of life,” the onscreen text said in English, replicating the spoken announcement in Burmese.

The junta's statement also blamed criminals for past protest violence, with the result that “the security force members had to fire back.” Three protesters have been fatally shot. Trucks cruised the streets of Yangon on Sunday night, blaring similar warnings.

The protest movement, which seeks to restore power to the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi and have her and other leaders released from detention, has embraced non-violence.

The nationwide strike was dubbed Five-Twos, for the five number twos in the numeric form of Monday's date.

“I am joining the 22222 nationwide protest as a citizen of the country. We must join the protest this time without fail,” said 42-year-old Zayar,

who owns a bottled water business in the capital. “So I've closed down my factory and joined the demonstration.”

Zin Mi Mi Aung, a 27-year-old saleswoman, also joined the strike. “We don't want to be governed by the regime,” she said as people marched and chanted behind her. “We will fight against them until we win.”

Thousands of people gathered in the capital's wide boulevards, many on motorbikes to allow swift movement in the event of any police action.

Reports and photos of protests, some very large, in at least a dozen cities and towns were posted on social media.

There were pictures of a particularly colorful event in Taunggyi, the capital of Shan State, where scores of small red hot-air balloons were set aloft.

A bigger one was adorned with a drawing of the three-finger salute adopted by the anti-coup movement. The city is famous for its annual hot-air balloon festival. **AP**

Thousands evacuated amid floods in Indonesia's West Java

Bekasi (Indonesia):Thousands of residents are being evacuated on the outskirts of Indonesia's capital amid flooding after the Citarum River embankment broke, officials said on Monday.

Bekasi district in Indonesia's West Java province have experienced flooding since Saturday because of heavy rain. “Some embankments are broken, not only from the river embankment but also from the irrigation embankments,” Public Works and Housing Minister Basuki Hadimuljono said Monday.

Rescuers from the National Search and Rescue Agency have been deployed.

Raditya Jati, spokesperson for the National Disaster Mitigation Agency, said that more than 28,000 residents in four villages in Bekasi district and 34 villages in Karawang district are affected by the floods. At least 4,184 people are being evacuated.

Thousands of houses in the area are covered with 100 to 250 centimeters (40 to 100 inches) of water and are without power. **AP**

Libya: Over 150 migrants freed in raid on traffickers

Cairo: Libyan authorities say they have raided a secret prison in a southeastern city used by human traffickers and freed at last 156 African migrants - including 15 women and five children.

The raid in the city of Kufra took place on Sunday after a migrant managed to escape a house-turned-prison last week and reported to authorities that he and other migrants were held and tortured by traffickers there, the Kufra security bureau said.

Security forces arrested at least six traffickers and referred them to prosecutors for further investigation, the bureau said.

The migrants, who are from Somalia, Eritrea, and Sudan, were freed and taken to the shelter center where they were given food, clothes, and blankets.

The raid shows the perils that refugees and migrants face in conflict-stricken Libya, which has emerged as a major transit point for African and Arab migrants fleeing war and poverty to Europe. Libya has descended into chaos following the 2011 uprising that toppled and killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. **AP**

NOTICE
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

No. RMSA/School Safety/1212/2019/4551 Date: 22/02/2021

This is an invitation to submit an Expression of interest from party(s) for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for providing Orientation Programme for Teachers on School Safety & Security” of secondary schools across Assam through e-procurement system of Govt. of Assam i.e. <https://assamtenders.gov.in>

Detailed Eol document may be seen at <https://assamtenders.gov.in> for eligibility conditions, technical evaluation criteria, scope of work, Eol terms and conditions etc. The Eol document can be purchased by registering at <https://assamtenders.gov.in> from 23/02/2021 to 04/03/2021, 14:00 hours and making payment of non-refundable Eol processing fee of Rs.5,000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of DD/Banker cheque in favour of Mission Director, RMSA, Assam payable at Guwahati.

The Eol is to be submitted online through e-procurement portal of Govt. of Assam i.e. <https://assamtenders.gov.in> only on or before 04/03/2021, 14:00 hours.

Details of Eol:

- Rs.12,04,860/- [Twelve Lakhs Four Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty Only] as Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) have to submit in favour of Mission Director, RMSA, Assam payable at Guwahati.
- The Eol can be downloaded from the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>.
- The proposal has to be submitted as described in the Eol.
- Submission start date : 24/02/2021 at 12.00 Noon.
- Last date/time for submission : 04/03/2021 at 2.00 P.M.
- Date of opening of Eol : 04/03/2021 at 3.00 P.M.

RMSA, Assam reserves the right to amend or cancel the Eol without assigning any notice or reason thereof. Moreover, in case of non-availability of sufficient bidder (or less than three bidders), authority has the right to take decision without prior notice.

Sd/-Executive Director,
 RMSA, Assam, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19

Janasanyog/CF/5229/20

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY



General public is here by informed that one Boy **Namely: Anmol Singh, S/o Nanak Singh, R/o H. No. 87, Vikas Vihar, Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Age: 20 years, Height: 5'1", Complexion: Fair, Face: Long, Wearing: Pink T-shirt, Black Lower and white shoes** in feet has been missing / kidnapped since 05.12.2020 form the area of PS. Nihal Vihar.

In this regard a DD No. 34-A dated 07.12.2020 has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this Boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this Boy kindly inform to the following.

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

SHO
P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi
Ph. 011-25946700, 25946710
DP/607/OD/2021

Investors lose ₹3.7 L cr as markets tank



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Investor wealth slumped by Rs 3.7 lakh crore on Monday, as the equity market recorded its biggest single-day fall in two months.

At the close of trade, the total market capitalisation of BSE listed companies eroded by Rs 3,71,883.82 crore to Rs 2,00,26,498.14 crore.

The total market capitalisation of BSE listed companies stood at Rs 2,03,98,381.96 crore on February 19.

Spiralling lower for the fifth straight session, the Sensex

plummeted 1,145 points or 2.25 per cent to close at 49,744.32. The broader NSE Nifty sank 306.05 points or 2.04 per cent to finish at 14,675.70.

"The market failed to show resilience to stay above the Nifty 50 Index level of 14,750. While it is subject to further price action evolution, the technical factors shifted today to support a further correction in the future," said Ashish Biswas, Head of Technical Research at CapitalVia Global Research Limited.

Biswas further said any

Global shares mostly lower as investors wary over stimulus

AP ■ TOKYO

Global shares were mostly lower on Monday, with Japan's benchmark rising but most others slipping despite hopes for a recovery from the coronavirus pandemic with the global rollout of vaccines.

France's CAC 40 slipped 1.1 per cent in early trading to 5,708.39, while Germany's DAX dove 1.3 per cent to 13,816.87. Britain's FTSE 100 declined 1.1 per cent to 6,554.12. U.S. Shares were to open lower, with the future

corrective wave down should find support around 14,500-14,300.

"Traders are refraining from building a new buying position until we witness a

contract for the Dow industrial sliding 0.7 per cent to 31,224. The S&P 500 future fell nearly 1 per cent to 3,865.12.

Benchmarks rose in Japan but fell in South Korea, Australia and China. Investors remain focused on the future of global economies badly hit by COVID-19 and when and whether there will be enough stimulus to fix it.

But the U.S. USD 1.9 trillion economic package proposed by President Joe Biden also heralds hope for export-

reliant regional economies.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 gained 0.5 per cent to finish at 30,156.03.

South Korea's Kospi dipped 0.9 per cent to 3,079.75. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 edged 0.2 per cent lower to 6,780.90. Hong Kong's Hang Seng fell 1.1 per cent to 30,319.83, while the Shanghai Composite dropped 1.5 per cent to 3,642.44.

Japan began administering vaccines for COVID-19 last week.

Sector-wise, BSE energy, realty, IT, tech, auto and capital goods indices skidded up to 2.92 per cent, while metal and basic materials ended with gains.

Jet Airways stock jumps 5 pc as Jalan Kalrock Consortium expects to restart Jet in 4-6 months

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Shares of grounded airline Jet Airways surged nearly 5 per cent on Monday after Murari Lal Jalan of Jalan-Kalrock consortium said that they expect to restart operations of the defunct airline in four to six months after receiving approval from the NCLT or its resolution plan.

After opening in the green, the airline's share rose 4.98 per cent to hit the upper circuit limit of Rs 114.90 on the BSE.

The scrip hit its upper trading limit on the NSE as well with a gain of 4.98 per cent to Rs 114.95.

Jet Airways, the once-storied full-service carrier was

grounded in early 2019 and subsequently is undergoing proceedings under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Against the backdrop of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) likely to take a final call on the resolution plan for the airline, the winning consortium's lead member Murari Lal Jalan told PTI that "everything is on track" as far as the revival efforts for the carrier are concerned.

Stressing that he is very positive about the Indian aviation sector, which is recovering from the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, Jalan said that initially Jet Airways will resume flying with around 25 aircraft.

Monthly collections in retail pools of NBFCs, HFCs touch pre-moratorium level: Icra

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Domestic rating agency Icra on Monday said the monthly collections, including overdues in its rated retail loan pools originated largely by NBFCs and HFCs, have reached pre-moratorium levels as of December 2020.

However, for its rated microfinance players, collections are yet to reach the pre-moratorium levels.

In March last year, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had announced moratorium on repayment of term loans in order to provide relief to borrowers impacted by the COVID-19 related disruptions. Initially, the moratorium was allowed till May 31 but was later extended till August 31.

The agency in a report

said the rebound in collections of retail loan pools originated largely by non-bank finance companies and housing finance players has been augmented by the focused recovery efforts, increased use of advanced digital platforms/payment gateways by borrowers.

The rebound in economic and business activities has also improved borrowers' repayment capability, it said.

The monthly collection efficiency in the agency's rated home loan (HL) and loan against property (LAP) pools demonstrated sturdy performance during the moratorium period.

Its rated CV and SME loan pools have also shown a steady recovery in collections till December 2020 on account of deployment

of additional resources and staffs towards collections along with adoption of new digital/IT technologies by the originators and rebound in business activities.

Icra's Vice President and Head (structured finance ratings) Abhishek Dafria said despite the presence of prevalent challenges such as local political hindrances and natural calamities in the microfinance segment, the collections in ICRA-rated microfinance pools saw a healthy recovery after dipping to the lower single digits in April 2020.

However, the collections have yet not achieved the pre-moratorium level due to political interferences especially in North-Eastern states like Assam as well as recent floods in certain geographies.

CCI approves stake purchase by Panatone Fininvest in Tata Comm

New Delhi: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Monday said it has approved acquisition of shares of Tata Communications Ltd (TCL) by Panatone Fininvest Ltd.

The proposed deal envisages acquisition of shareholding not exceeding 26.12 per cent by Panatone Fininvest Ltd in Tata Communications Ltd (erstwhile VSNL).

Panatone Fininvest Ltd is a non-deposit taking core investment arm of Tata Sons.

The Government of India looks to divest its 26.12 per cent equity stake in TCL. The

Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 30 December 2020 approved sale of stake in TCL.

After the acquisition of shares, Panatone Fininvest would increase its shareholding from 48.87 per cent to such shareholding not exceeding 74.99 per cent. Commission approves acquisition of shares of Tata Communications Limited by Panatone Fininvest (A Systematically Important Non-Deposit Taking Core Investment Company of Tata Sons)," the fair trade regulator said in a tweet.

The CCI also approved acquisition of glass packaging business of Piramal Glass and shareholding in its subsidiaries, Vivid Glass Trading & certain businesses of Anspack Pvt Ltd, by PGP Glass -- an affiliate of Blackstone Group.

The fair trade regulator also approved the acquisition of certain shareholding in API Holdings by CDPQ Private Equity Asia. "Commission approves acquisition of certain shareholding in API Holdings by CDPQ Private Equity Asia," CCI said in a tweet.

Gold gains ₹278 to ₹46,013/10 gms; silver jumps ₹265 to ₹68,587/kg

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold prices in the national capital jumped Rs 278 to Rs 46,013 per 10 grams on Monday, supported by recovery in international prices even as rupee appreciation capped the price of the precious metal, according to HDFC Securities.

The precious metal had closed at Rs 45,735 per 10 grams in the previous trade.

In tandem, silver prices witnessed an increase of Rs 265 to Rs 68,587 per kg on Monday, compared with its previous close of Rs 68,322.

HDFC Securities Senior

Analyst (Commodities) Tapan Patel said, "Spot gold prices for 24 carat gold at Delhi traded up by Rs 278 reflecting gains in global gold prices despite of sharp rupee appreciation."

The Indian rupee gained 16 paise and settled at 72.49 against the US dollar on Monday.

In the international market, gold was trading lower at USD 1774 an ounce, while silver was also down at USD 26.94 an ounce.

Gold prices traded firm on dollar decline and weak equity indices on pandemic worries.

I-T Department conducts raids on Pune-based group locations

ANS ■ NEW DELHI

Income Tax Department carried out search and seizure operations last week at 34 different locations across Maharashtra on a group based in Pune's Sangamner whose entities are largely engaged in packaging and sale of tobacco and related products, generation and distribution of power, FMCGs sale, and real estate development.

During the course of the search operation, hand-written notes and Excel sheets maintained on computers revealed unrecorded cash sale transactions amounting to Rs 243 crore related to sale of tobacco. In addition to this, action on some dealers in tobacco products revealed further unrecorded sale by them amounting to Rs 40 crore approximately, the I-T Dept said in a statement.

The group was also accepting and paying cash over and above the registration value in transactions relating to real estate. Evidence of transactions amounting to Rs 18 crore was found in this regard. Issues relating to violations of section 50C of the Income Tax Act, 1961 amounting to Rs 23 crore have also been found, the statement added.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Naveen Kumar

General Public is hereby informed that one boy **Naveen Kumar, S/o: Baccha Singh, R/o: A-45, Sunday Bazar Road, Chander Vihar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **26.12.2020** from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 50-A dated 27.12.2020** has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing/kidnapped boy is as under: **Age: 23 years, Height: 5'7", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Green colour shirt, blue colour jeans and white colour shoes in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail Id - cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/632/OD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING



RAM KISHAN

General public is hereby informed that a person (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Ram Kishan S/o: Sh. Vinod Kumar R/o: H. No. G-13, Vijay Vihar Ph-I, Delhi** has been missing since 12.02.2021 from the jurisdiction of P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 75A dated 13.02.2021** has been lodged at Police Station Vijay Vihar, Delhi His physical description is as under:-

Age: 24 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue & white colour T-shirt and pink colour payjama & black colour shoes in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing person, may inform SHO, Vijay Vihar, Delhi at E-mail Id - **cbi@cbi.gov.in** or Website: **http://cbi.nic.in**
Phone: SHO
011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/680/RD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



SAHIL

General public is hereby informed that a boy (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Sahil S/o: Dil Bahadur R/o: D-40, Laxmi Park, Nangloi, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since 06.12.2020 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 88-A dated 09.12.2020** has been lodged at Police Station Nihal Vihar, Delhi. His physical description is as under:-

Age: 23 Years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Wearing: Dark green colour jacket - Dark Grey colour lower and white colour shoes in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this Missing/Kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Nihal Vihar, Delhi at E-mail Id - **cbi@cbi.gov.in** or Website: **http://cbi.nic.in**
Phone: SHO
011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
Ph. No. 011-25946700, 25946710

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



BALJEET SINGH

General Public is hereby informed that one person **Namely: Baljeet Singh, S/o: Gurdial Singh, R/o: A-80C, Near Koyla Tall, Chander Vihar, Delhi, Age: 48 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Long, Wearing: Grey Kurta-Pajama-Blue Jacket and Shoes in Feet** has been missing/kidnapped since 25.11.2020 from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard **DD No. 109-A, Dated 26.11.2020**, has been lodged at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped person please inform the undersigned.
Web-site: http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID: cbi@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
DP/610/OD/2021

Petrol, diesel rates unchanged for 2nd consecutive day

ANS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid pressure to check the fuel price rise, oil marketing companies on Monday decided to keep petrol and diesel prices unchanged on Monday for the second consecutive day.

Accordingly, petrol continues to be priced at Rs 90.58 a litre and diesel Rs 80.97 a litre in the national capital.

Across the country as well the petrol and diesel price remained stable after rising for 12 consecutive days till Saturday.

During this phase of price rise (in the last 12 days since February 9), the price has gone up by Rs 3.63 per litre for petrol while diesel rate has risen by Rs 3.84 a litre in Delhi.

The increase in the previous weeks has taken petrol to cross historic high levels of Rs 100 a litre in several cities across the country.

In Mumbai, petrol price is just Rs 3 per litre short (Rs 97 a litre) of touching the three digit mark of Rs 100 per litre for the very first time ever. Diesel price in the city is closing on Rs 90 a litre (Rs 88.06 a litre).

In all other metros, petrol is over Rs 90 a litre mark while diesel is well over Rs 80 a litre. Premium petrol has crossed Rs 100 per litre mark in several cities of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra a few days back.

The steady fuel price has followed the softening of global oil prices (both product and crude) in the last few days. After crossing \$ 65 a barrel mark in earlier week, it is around \$ 63 a barrel now.

Since fuel prices are benchmarked to a 15-day rolling average of global refined products' prices and dollar exchange rate, pump prices can be expected to remain north-bound over the next few days even if crude hovers at the current level or falls.

The petrol and diesel prices have increased 24 times in 2021 with the two auto fuels increasing by Rs 6.87 and Rs 7.10 per litre respectively so far this year.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Known to all that my client Shubham Shukla is mortgagee of Plot No. 45, Western Area 72sq. yds., Mustil No. 31, Killa no. 21/2/2, Mustil No. 33, Killa no. 34, 35, 1/3, 1/1, Ballabhgarh, Delhi. Housing Finance Ltd. Shubham Shukla has lost original sale deed executed by Satish Chand in favour of Parashuram Shukla dated 28.02.2006. It is informed that any deed with the above mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 205, 2nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, West Nagar, N. Delhi-110017 Ph: 011-411102738, kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
General Public is hereby informed that Shri Laxman Choudhary S/o Late Dhani Choudhary and Smt. Sumitra W/o Shri Laxman Choudhary both R/o Plot No. 28, Gali No. 15, Siddharth Enclave, Uttam Nagar, Delhi, have severed all our relations with our son Mukesh Choudhary and his wife Seema Choudhary and hereby declared them from inheriting any of our properties movable and immovable in all respects, and all responsibilities. They will have no right title or any kind of charge on all our assets movable and immovable.
Shanker Chhabra (Advocate) M: 968615 5555

Public Notice
This is to inform general public that Mr. Gautam Chugh, Mr. Hirdesh Kumar Chugh & Mr. Chaman Lal Goyal are the owners of 'Property No. R2-D-1252, land area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., out of Kharsa No. 62/2/2, Situated at Village-Nasirpur, in the Colony known as Mahavir Enclave, Gali No. 05, New Delhi.' vide Sale Deed dated 12/12/2019 duly registered with the Sub-Registrar, Delhi, on Document No. 10159, Book No. 1, Volume No. 10233, Page No. 70-75, on 17/12/2019. Now, Mr. Gautam Chugh, Mr. Hirdesh Kumar Chugh & Mr. Chaman Lal Goyal are intending to sell 'Third Floor, right hand side, with roof rights' of the above said property to 'Mr. Hinderand Singh Bhat & Mrs. Deepi Bhat' who are mortgaging the above said 'Third Floor, right hand side, with roof rights of the above said property' with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. & in case anyone has any objection, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Muneesh Dhanani Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 405, 4th Floor, GD-ITL Northex Tower, (A-09), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

Public Notice
This is to inform public that "Mr. Kuldeep Kumar" is the owner of the Property No. B-49-A, area measuring 50 Sq. Yds., Out of Rect. 05, Kharsa Killa No. 17, Situated at Village-Kakrola, Colony-Patel Garden, New Delhi. Vide Sale Deed dated 27.03.2006 (Doc. No. 4149), Mr. Kuldeep Kumar had misplaid 1. Original GPA dated 13.09.1983, ATS & Will executed by Mr. Doori Singh in favour of Mrs. Rahisha Begum, 2. Original GPA, ATS dated 28.01.1985 & Will executed by Mrs. Rahisha Begum in favour of Mr. Bahadur Chand, 3. Original GPA, ATS & Will dated 05.08.1994 executed by Mr. Bahadur Chand in favour of Mr. Nand Kishore, 4. Original Regd. GPA dated 14.08.2002, ATS & Will executed by Mr. Nand Kishore in favour of Mrs. Bimla Devi, 5. Original Sale Deed dated 01.02.2006 executed by Mrs. Bimla Devi in favour of Mrs. Reetu Goel. (Doc. No. 1484, SRC-IX), Anyone who find the above said documents shall handover the same to the Manager of Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. having its office at 2nd & 3rd Floor, WZ 115-A, Menakshi Garden, Near Subhash Nagar Metro Station, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018. Mr. Kuldeep Kumar is Selling the above said property to Mr. Kuldeep Singh & Mrs. Rekha who are mortgaging the property with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. In case anyone has objection regarding mortgage of the said property, the same may be raised within 07 days to Mr. Muneesh Dhanani, Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 405, 4th Floor, GD-ITL Northex Tower, (A-09), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

INBRIEF

HINDU RAO HOSPITAL OF NORTH DMC GETS ULTRA LOW DEEP FREEZER TO STORE CORONA VACCINE

Aircorn Engineering on Monday donated an ultra low deep freezer to store the Corona vaccine at Hindu Rao Hospital. On the occasion Mayor of North Delhi Municipal Corporation Jai Prakash and SDMC Councillor Radhika Phogat were present as the chief guest. During the function Medical Superintendent of Hindu Rao Hospital Dr Annu Kapoor and other senior officers of North Delhi Municipal Corporation were also present. On the occasion, Mayor Jai Prakash thanked the Aircorn Engineering Company for donating the ultra low deep freezer to the Hindu Rao Hospital and SDMC Councillor, Radhika Phogat for her support.

NTPC BAGS 4 AWARDS AT PRSI NATIONAL AWARDS 2020

New Delhi: NTPC Ltd, India's largest energy integrated company, bagged four awards at the Public Relations Society of India (PRSI) National Awards 2020 in a virtual award ceremony. NTPC corporate communications team was awarded for the exemplary work done by them throughout the year. Chief Guests Babi Rani Maurya, Honorable Governor Uttarakhand and Ramesh Pokhriyal, Honorable Union Education Minister, presented the awards to the winners. NTPC Scope won the first prize for the comic book Meet The Bijlees in the special/prestigious publication category. NTPC Scope also bagged the second prize for the best Corporate Film category in English. NTPC Mouda received the third prize for its E-newsletter while NTPC Unchahar and NTPC Simhadri were also awarded for their work in CSR categories.

LIC OF INDIA LAUNCHES NEW PLAN- LIC'S BIMA JYOTI

Life Insurance Corporation of India has introduced LIC's Bima Jyoti a Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Individual, Savings Plan which offers an attractive combination of protection and savings. This plan provides guaranteed lumpsum payment at maturity and financial support to the family in case of unfortunate death of the policyholder during policy term. It can be purchased Offline through agent /other intermediaries as well as Online directly through website www.lcindia.in. Guaranteed Additions at the rate of Rs. 50 per thousand basic sum assured will be added to the policy at the end of each policy year.

2ND PHASE OF RASHTRIYA SANSKRITI MAHOTSAV TO BE CELEBRATED AT DARJEELING

The second phase of the Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav will be inaugurated by the Union Minister of State for Culture & Tourism (Independent Charge) Prahlad Singh Patel on February 22 at Raj Bhawan in Darjeeling, West Bengal. The festival is being held from 22nd February to 24th February. The Governor of West Bengal, Jagdeep Dhankhar, will grace the closing ceremony on 24th February 2021. The Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is organised to promote the spirit of Ek Bharat Sreshtha Bharat.

ADVANCE SALARY SERVICE MOBILE APP FOR FINANCIALLY STRESSED EMPLOYEES

New Delhi: Valyuu.ai, a fintech startup, has unveiled an advance salary service on its mobile app available on Google Play. 'Indian employees can be stressed by short term financial needs for medical expenses, EMIs, education fees or financial setbacks. This financial stress affects employees' morale, resulting in lower productivity, resulting in lowered GDP. We want to cater to these employees who require funds but in a safe and secure manner. These advances are taken in consent with the employer, thereby ensuring the default risks are low,' said Gaurav Kumar, founder and chief technology officer, Valyuu.ai.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Surender Dutt Sharma is owner of MIG Flat No. DA403, Second Floor, Pocket -A, Sector-D, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, the said property' by virtue of sale deed dated 28.02.2006. Registration No. 3557, executed by Mrs. Preeti Puri. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want take Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd. against the said property, if anybody has any objection/ upon the said sale deed / said property and its ownership / Mortgage, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present. Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 205, 2nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, West Nagar, N. Delhi-110017 Ph: 011-411102738, kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 368/2019 Date : 18.12.2020
CORPORATION BANK VERSUS **APPLICANT**
M/S BALAJI FURNITURE PROPRIETOR RESPONDENT
To, DEFENDANT
1. M/S BALAJI FURNITURE PROPRIETOR MR. NITIN NAGPAL
ADDRESS-A-2 GANESH NAGAR PANDAV NAGAR COMPLEX DELHI
2. SMT. TANNIA NAGPAL W/O SH. NITIN NAGPAL-126 SITUATED AT THE AABADI OF LALITA PARK JAWAHAR PARK IN THE AREA OF VILLAGE KUREJI ILLAQA SHAHDARA DELHI-92.

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 1,23,46,806/- (RUPEES ONE CRORE TWENTY THREE LAKH FORTY SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SIX ONLY) against you and whereas 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 16.04.2021 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

HINDUSTHAN URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED
Regd. Office : 7th Floor, Kanchenjunga Building, 18, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi-110001
CIN: L31300DL1999PLC003141, Email: investors@hindusthan.co.in
website: www.hindusthanurban.com, Phone no: +91-11-23310001-05

NOTICE TO MEMBERS
Notice is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013 (the "Act"), read with Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 (the "Rules"), Secretarial Standards on General Meetings, Regulation 47of (Listing obligations and Discloser Requirements Regulations, 2015 ("Listing Regulations"), General Circular No. 14/2020 dated April08, 2020, General Circular No. 17/2020 dated April 13, 2020, General Circular No. 22/2020 dated June 15, 2020 and General Circular No. 2/2021 dated January 13, 2021 (the "MCA Circulars") and any other applicable Laws and Regulations, that the approval of the members of the Company is being sought through a Postal Ballot (only through remote e-voting) for the following business to be passed by way of special resolution.

1. Alteration in objects clause of the Memorandum of Association.
2. Alteration in Liability clause of the Memorandum of Association.
All members are hereby informed that:
1. The Company has on Monday, February 22, 2021 sent the Postal Ballot Notice by e-mail to those shareholders who have registered their e-mail addresses with the Company/RTA or their respective Depository Participants. In view of the continuing circumstances due to COVID-19 pandemic requiring social distancing and in compliance with the requirements of the MCA Circulars, hard copy of Postal Ballot Notice along with the Postal Ballot Forms and pre-paid business reply envelope will not be sent to the members for this Postal Ballot and shareholders are required to communicate their assent or dissent through remote e-voting system only.

2. The Company is pleased to offer its Members the facility to cast their vote by electronic means through e-voting facility provided by National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) in compliance with the Act and the Listing Regulations. The voting through remote e-voting shall commence at 9.00 a.m. (IST) on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 and ends at 5.00 p.m. (IST) on Wednesday, March 24, 2021. The e-voting Platform would be disabled by NSDL thereafter.
3. The cut-off date for determining right of voting of members is Friday, February 12,

DOCYARD


DR ANIL RAHEJA

Orthopedic Expert

APOLLO SPECTRA
KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI



Stand up for your back



Do you spend a lot of time working from home or using electronic gadgets? Do you have neck pain owing to the constant usage of electronic devices such as computers, laptops, or phones? Are you sleeping in the wrong position or lifting heavy objects? Then, you will be shocked to know that all these habits can aggravate your back and neck pain. This will further rob your peace of mind by giving you a tough time. Thus, you will have to adhere to some vital strategies that will allow you to get rid of your back and neck pain. Read on to know more about this and follow these essential tricks without delaying further.

There is a constant rise in the cases of back and neck pain and that unbearable pain can disrupt your life. You will be unable to do your daily chores owing to that notorious back and neck pain. One may encounter back pain due to the sedentary lifestyle (constant sitting), improper posture (leaning over your computer or hunching over the table), muscle sprain, or ligament strain. Likewise, poor sleeping habits, poor posture, and neck injury can invite neck pain. Though the unlock phase has begun, the pandemic is not over yet and many people are still working from home, and this has also led to the spurt in back and neck pain cases. In most cases, the back and neck pain will go away on its own by simple measures. But, if your condition is worsening then you will have to opt for proper treatment that will allow you to ease your back and neck pain.

Here are a few solutions to help you get back on track

Improve your posture: This is a vital step in managing back and neck pain. If you are one of them who frequently uses a phone or computer then adjust your positions. Avoid hunching while working on the computer as it can raise your risk of neck and back pain. Try to adjust your monitor at eye level. Use appropriate chairs and don't bend your knees. Keep standing in between your work. Avoid tucking your phone between your ears. You can use headphones instead or even a speakerphone and prevent back and neck pain.

Do not lift heavy objects: Do you constantly tend to pick up heavyweight objects? Then, you are doing it all wrong! Do not carry heavy bags with a laptop, suitcase, or even grocery bags over your shoulder. In case, you are lifting heavy bags then try to distribute the weight equally on both shoulders. You must also squat while lifting the heavy objects from the floor and try to hold those objects close to your body.

Take frequent short breaks: Do you have an erratic work from home schedule? Then try to stand up between your work routine. It is recommended to take a short break after every 30-40 minutes. This will help you deal with back and neck pain. Try to stretch in between the work. Sitting for long hours is a strict no. Also, do not forget to exercise on a daily basis and maintain an optimum weight.

Sleep properly: Are you aware? Sleeping in the wrong position can have an adverse effect on your spine health. Yes, you have heard it right! Choose your pillow and mattress wisely as it will ensure good alignment of the head, neck, and spine. Avoid a sagging bed & throw out the worn out mattresses.

Exercise regularly: Strengthening the core of the body helps a lot in avoiding & treating back pain. Start with stretching exercises and gradually build up the spine, abdominals, hamstrings and quadriceps. Work on your shoulder & neck muscles if you use computers & phone for long hours.

WARMFOODS

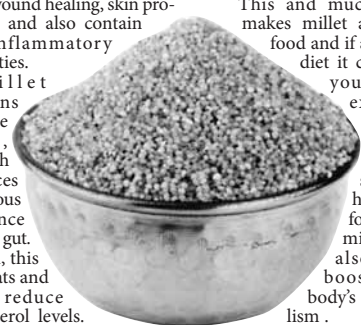
MILLET: Millets boast of high fibre, protein and essential Vitamins. They are also rich in antioxidants which helps to protect your body from harmful oxidative stress. They may also help in rapid wound healing, skin protection and also contain anti-inflammatory properties.

Millet contains soluble fiber, which produces a viscous substance in your gut. In turn, this traps fats and helps reduce cholesterol levels.

It also helps lower blood sugar levels.

Moreover, millet is a gluten-free grain, making it a viable choice for people with celiac disease or those following a gluten-free diet.

This and much more makes millet a super-nutrient food and if added in diet it can bless you with excellent health benefits. Certain studies have also found that millet can also help boost the body's metabolism.





IT'S A SORE ISSUE

Mouth ulcers are common. However, if the ulcers persist for several weeks even after treatment, one must not ignore the signs as it may indicate a cancerous growth, says DR RAMESH CHANDRA JOSHI

Mouth ulcers are quite common in all age groups and can make regular activities such as eating, drinking, and talking very uncomfortable. However, mouth ulcers can be cured with an antimicrobial or pain killing mouthwash, gel or spray.

But, if the ulcers persist for several weeks even after treatment, one must not ignore the signs as it may indicate a cancerous growth. There are many signs of mouth cancer but red sores that do not respond to treatment or heal is a telling sign. Lifestyle habits such as drinking alcohol or consuming tobacco — both smoked and smokeless — can cause cancer of mouth. Besides, human papillomavirus (HPV), known to cause sexually-transmitted infections (STI) and cervical cancer, can also cause cancer of mouth. The HPV-affected cancer of mouth is seen in the soft palate, tonsils, base of tongue, and pharyngeal wall areas.

Other symptoms of mouth cancer include:

- Persistent and unexplained lumps in the mouth or the neck
- Unexplained loose teeth or sockets
- Unexplained, persistent numbness on the tongue or lip
- White or red patches on the lining of the mouth or tongue
- Changes in speech, such as a lisp

The types of mouth cancer are categorised by the type of cell it starts to grow in. Medically, it is known as carcinoma. The most common type is squamous cell carcinoma that affects 9 out of 10 cases of mouth cancer. The less common types of mouth cancer are:

- Adenocarcinoma, in which cancer develops inside the salivary glands
- Sarcoma, in which cancer develops from the abnormalities in cartilage, bone, muscle or any other tissue
- Oral malignant melanoma, in which cancer starts in the cells that produce skin pigment (melanocytes). They often bleed and appear as dark, mottled swellings
- Lymphoma, in which the cancer grows from cells in lymph glands

Mouth cancer as well as treating it can cause complications and affect the appearance of the mouth. Besides, it can cause dysphagia (problems with speaking and swallowing). Dysphagia can be a serious complication — if a small piece of food enters the airways when you try to swallow and gets lodged in lungs, dysphagia may lead to aspiration pneumonia, a kind of chest infection.

Common to other cancers, chemotherapy, radiation therapy and surgery are the treatments available for mouth cancer too. If diagnosed early, mouth cancer can be completely cured in 9 out of 10 cases using surgery

Preventing and treating mouth cancer

Cancer of oral cavity (lips, tongue, buccal mucosa, tonsils, palate) can give rise to various complications like difficulty in eating, speech, alteration in voice, inability to open mouth fully, pain in ear, bleeding etc, if not treated in time. Easy lifestyle changes and preventive measures, including, but not limited to the following can help in preventing mouth cancer in most of the people:

- Quit smoking or consuming smokeless tobacco as well as alcohol
- Get vaccinated against HPV
- Using a condom during oral sex to lower the chances of HPV infection
- Visiting a dentist regularly for screening
- Eating a balanced diet of fresh vegetables (especially tomatoes), citrus fruits, olive oil and fish with omega 3 fatty acid

Common to other cancers, chemotherapy, radiation therapy and surgery are the treatments available for mouth cancer too. If diagnosed early, mouth cancer can be completely cured in 9 out of 10 cases using surgery. For the emotional impact of the disease and treatment, therapeutic remedies for depression, such as antidepressants and cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) may be prescribed.

The writer is Clinical Oncology, Columbia Asia Hospital, Palam Vihar, Gurgaon

DadiKaKehna

Bug bites are irritating, especially because of the continuous itching. ROSHANI DEVI shares easy home remedies that can help beat the itch at the comfort of your home



Bug bites are annoying. Not because of the redness that they bring, but due to the constant itching. Here are a few remedies that can help.

Oatmeal. Oatmeal can relieve itching and swelling because it contains special compounds. Make a paste by mixing equal amounts of oatmeal and water in a bowl until you have a spackle-like substance. Put some paste onto a washcloth and hold it, paste-side down, on the irritated skin for about 10 minutes. Then wipe it off.

Crushed ice. Use a cold pack or a bag filled with crushed ice to relieve the itching caused by a mosquito bite.

Don't leave the ice directly on your bite for more than five minutes as it can damage the skin.

Aloe vera. Apart from the multiple skin benefits, aloe vera also helps relieve bug bites. Cut open a small section of the plant. Scoop out the gel and apply it to the irritated area. Let it dry, and apply again as needed.

Honey. It has many antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties. A small drop on an itchy bite can reduce the inflammation.

'Prevention & diagnosis are key'

Sedentary lifestyle is a cause for weight gain, blood pressure changes, high sugar levels and pulmonary embolism, says DR AMIT MALIK

The pandemic had left everyone cooped up in their homes. With work from home becoming the new normal, the long sitting hours without any physical activity has given rise to multiple health issues.

While not all must have been bad during the pandemic and work from home scenario, but the worst is the ill effects of a sedentary lifestyle.

Dr Amit Malik, Associate Director and Coordinator, Interventional Cardiology, Electrophysiology tells you that a sedentary lifestyle, especially during a pandemic can lead to pulmonary embolism and other serious diseases.

Sedentary lifestyle, he says, is a type of lifestyle that doesn't involve physical activity. A person involved in this is either always sitting around or lying down. Because of the pandemic, the shift of all day-to-day activities online and work from home, this has been the lifestyle of most people. This has reduced the day-to-day mobility. Before the pandemic, even if people did not designate time to physical exercise, they still moved around. "Sedentary lifestyle is a cause for weight gain, blood pressure changes, high sugar, deep vein thrombosis and various other things which are risk factors for several diseases," Malik says.

The worst of all is Pulmonary embolism. It is a condition in which blood vessels in lungs are blocked by a blood clot. "Pulmonary embolism is a very fatal and catastrophic condition which can be difficult to diagnose. Some of its symptoms are sudden shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling and low oxygen saturation. If someone notices these symptoms, they should get themselves checked immediately," Malik says.

The clots form in the legs of the person and then travel through blood to reach the right chamber of the heart and then into the pulmonary artery. Depending on the size of the clot, the smaller branches of pulmonary arteries or major artery can be blocked. Apart from pulmonary embolism, embolism can also occur in other important organs like brain and heart and cause fatal problems or death of the person.

"To prevent this people should avoid sitting in the same position for long hours, take a gap after every 45 to 60 minutes and stretch, jump, or walk around the house. Keep oneself hydrated and have a healthy diet. Prevention and prompt diagnosis are important. For treatment, blood thinner or clot dissolving agents are used depending on the clot burden to remove the clot and unblock the blood vessels," he tells you.

HEALTH & HYGIENE ABOVE ALL

In India, food-borne diseases lead to 1,20,000 deaths each year imposing a burden of over 8 million Disability Adjusted Life Years, says MANISH AGGARWAL



One of the most desirable consequences of Covid-19 has been the increased all-round consciousness for hygiene. And among several types of hygiene such as personal hygiene, environmental hygiene etc which impact our day-to-day lives, food hygiene has naturally emerged as a major issue for regulators, consumers and above all, food manufacturers and companies. The constant need to be watchful of what is ingested or goes inside of our bodies can never be exaggerated enough. The recent pandemic has only further highlighted the need for making food hygiene a priority for all.

There has been repeated reporting of how the open and unpackaged food sold in the streets' fashionably called street food has in a way been responsible for unsafe and unhygienic food consumption in the country. Particularly in these times of Covid, if the food maker doesn't maintain personal hygiene wears masks and gloves and keeps sufficient physical distance from fellow workers, the food prepared is highly risky to consume. The unhygienic and unsafe food leads to a vicious cycle of disease and sickness particularly impacting the elderly, the sick and the children, adding to the already high burden of disease pervading in the country.

Yet, the rise in the outbreak of food-borne diseases and safety cases has continued to be reported periodically from different parts of the country. In fact, unsafe food and water have been cited to be the biggest cause of preventable infection in India. Not pursuing basic food safety practices such as wearing an apron, accessing and using tap water, using soap for cleaning utensils, and storing food in proper refrigerated facilities is an invitation to food-borne diseases. This also has an economic cost. It has been estimated that food-borne diseases cost the country a whopping \$15 billion.

In India, food-borne diseases (FBD) lead to 1,20,000 deaths each year imposing a burden of over 8 million Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs). In fact, children under five years are at 40% more risk with around 30,000 deaths each year. These are frightening figures which are only expected to rise further in the coming years.

These ongoing measures were given a new impetus when Covid-19 showed up resulting in a new set of guidelines. In addition to the existing food safety protocols, the food businesses were directed to ensure that food handlers and workers are made aware of the symptoms of the virus and the risks emanating from it.

Training programmes on risk factors, safe food handling, social distancing and other protective behaviours such as wearing of face mask, handwashing with soap or using alcohol-based sanitiser were made mandatory. In addition, food premises including areas of food establishment such as preparation, storage and packing areas, equipment and containers besides toilets and washrooms were to be periodically sanitised without fail. There should be limited food workers in a kitchen with each worker strictly maintaining personal/social distancing.

The writer is Director, Bilkano

INBRIEF

Therapeutic food manufacturers have emphasised the need for making Community based programmes an integral part of the protocol for managing Severe Acute Malnutrition amongst children. In recent guidelines issued to the states/UTs, Ministry of Women & Child Development has asked for identification of children suffering from SAM and their referral to hospitals as a key priority.

In a communication to the Government, CMAM Association of India has welcomed the move for identification and management of SAM on priority in view of the rise in the incidence of SAM in the country in recent years.

"SAM is a critical health condition where a child is nine times more likely to die as compared to a healthy child. The recently published results of phase I of the National Family Health Survey-5 bring to the fore the urgency of the problem of SAM. 16 out of the 22 states and union territories that were surveyed, showed an increase in the incidence of SAM over the last 10 years. In about 8 States, SAM is higher in urban areas than in rural areas", CMAM Association has stated. Along with the initiatives proposed by the Government, CMAM Association has asked for management of SAM cases which are without complications at the community level itself precluding the need for admission in Nutrition Rehabilitation Centres which can't take the load of all the SAM cases.



The world today is vastly different from what it was a few decades ago. There are new types of jobs and skills required in the workforce, and as the world continues to progress, there will be newer and different competencies that will be required. We will live in, what educators define as, a VUCA world: A volatile, unpredictable, complex and ambiguous world. So, for the coming generations to be adequately prepared to enter the workforce, they need to be equipped with competencies that will be useful to them in the future.

Educational institutes are responsible for providing students with those competencies or core skills that will allow them to be satisfied and successful in the workplace. Along with the world, the skills being taught in schools must also be upgraded to suit students in the future. No longer can we rely on the educational tools of the past to equip our students for the unknown

PREPPING FOR THE FUTURE

ROHAN PARIKH shares some of the core competencies that schools should inculcate in students from a young age for them to be adequately prepared to enter the workforce

future. So rather than teaching student's specific tasks or specialisations, it's more effective to teach them some basic competencies which will ensure they grow into good citizens. Here are some of the core competencies schools

should look to inculcate in students from a very young age:

CREATIVE THOUGHT: Students should be taught how to think outside the box and come up with unique solu-

tions to problems presented to them. There is no cookie-cutter solution to problems, and therefore, students, too, need to look at problems from various angles and present solutions that would best fit.

CRITICAL THINKING: One of the most important skills that need to be inculcated in students is the ability to think critically and independently. This means that they should possess the skill to be able to take in information, analyse it and understand it, rather than taking someone else's word for it. Especially in the current day where there is such ease of access to information, students need to be able to analyse for themselves what is correct and what is not.

COLLABORATION: Both of these competencies work hand in hand. The workforce today is a more collaborative space than it has been the past decades. Almost any job profile requires a person to work effectively and efficiently along with others. Therefore, students must be taught how to correctly pitch their ideas and receive feedback from others in a professional manner. They should be taught to read others and handle difficult situations that may arise in life, and later in the workforce.

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION: Using the right tone, language and right kind of communication can prove to be a key factor in helping students correctly navigate their way through life. They have to be taught how to correctly present their ideas to other students or adults and later on how to effectively communicate their ideas in the workplace. Good communication skills will also help them build self-confidence as they progress.

These core competencies should be brought into the classrooms and taught to students from a very young age. Together these will help them in achieving their goals and being confident in their abilities to reach their objectives. And as students become adults, they will be able to easily adapt, innovate, communicate and solve issues, making them overall changemakers in the workforce.

(The writer is the MD of The Green Acres Academy.)

Rebel for life

Actor BHUMI PEDNEKAR collaborates with ANIRUDH SHARMA, a local climate warrior, who turns pollution into usable ink to reduce the carbon footprint

Actor Bhumi Pednekar has always been an environmentally conscious citizen who has taken up climate conservation as a cause to raise awareness among fellow Indians. Bhumi has launched an online and offline initiative called Climate Warrior through which she is mobilising citizens of India to contribute towards protecting the environment. Bhumi has now collaborated with Anirudh Sharma, a climate warrior, who is turning pollution into usable ink with an aim to reduce the carbon footprint of the country.

Anirudh Sharma is a climate warrior. He is the co-creator of Air-Ink (Graviky) and he is a very cool inventor, who actually invented a device that turns pollution into ink. It reduces your carbon footprint while you ride. His innovation has spread to various artist and scientist communities and he has some fantastic ideas with Air-Ink," says Bhumi.

Graviky began as an MIT Media Lab experiment that saw a tool being created to capture soot from a burning candle. Then, Anirudh invented a device that captured air pollution and turned the captured particulate matter into a safe, water-based ink. Now, he has created a dedicated team trying to change industrial production with forays into packaging, apparel printing, and advanced materials. Anirudh also upcycles air pollution into sustainable inks, paints, coatings, plastics, and construction materials.



A thin line

Filmmaker ANURAG BASU says that directors must understand the difference between using the freedom of creativity and misusing it

Anurag Basu says that filmmakers have always explored bold subjects irrespective of the medium it is presented on. However, the line that differentiates freedom of creativity and misusing that freedom needs to be kept in mind by filmmakers at all times.

"It's a very thin line between using the freedom of creativity and misusing it. I believe in OTT as well. Filmmakers should look at using freedom of speech in the best possible way to tell unique stories," Basu said.

His new film *Ludo*, an anthology drama, dropped on OTT platform a few months back and will make its television premiere soon.

"A lot of filmmakers have explored bigger and bolder subjects on the big screen as well. My film *Ludo* dealt with many bold subjects and was initially planned for the big screen," he added.

Basu, who made films such as *Barfi!* (2012), *Life in a Metro* (2007) and *Gangster* (2006), is confident now that theatres have reopened after lockdown, the audience will pour in like the good old days.

"Cinema is a community watching experience. I am certain that audiences will come back to theatres when they will be back in action completely. We just need one film that will create enough buzz for the audience to rush back to theatres. This has already started in the South, with the release of the Vijay-starrer *Master*, and soon will be seen in Bollywood too.



One big release and things will change," he said.

The filmmaker came back to direction with *Ludo* after a break of three years but he doesn't sense a gap.

"As a filmmaker, I didn't miss filmmaking and directing for the big screen. Thankfully, the TV reality show *Super Dancer* and the film *Ludo* happened at the same time. I had finished shooting for *Ludo* when we were shooting for *Super Dancer*. So, I never felt

I was away from the big-screen," he said.

So, what does he prefer? Directing films or judging shows on television? "Cooking!" he replied on a lighter note, and went on to add, "I absolutely love cooking. That's what my family and my wife say! They believe I am a great chef and then a great filmmaker. I love cooking almost every day for my family."

—IANS

TREND TOOL

Itchy feet get going

A survey finds out that an overwhelming 94 per cent of the respondents are looking at sustainable travel this year, and health and safety emerge as their priority



A survey, recently released, finds out a new travel trends for 2021, which shows that Indian travellers are looking to reconnect with their loved ones, and enjoy safe and unique experiences off-the-beaten track. Health and safety will continue to be the priority, and this is increasingly reflecting in their travel choices as well. Here are the top travel trends in India for 2021 by Airbnb & YouGov:

Travel will come back to connect people.

From March 2020, Indians experienced a long period of disconnect given the impact of the lockdown. As travel returns this year, it is firmly in the direction of connecting with loved ones through personal trips with family and friends. The research suggested that trip with family is the type of travel communities want the most.

Around 57 per cent of the respondents across age groups said that they would choose to connect with their immediate family members as soon as proper travelling will be back. Approximately 50 per cent of the millennials said that they would travel with, or to see, friends and family.

Hosted travel will be the key trend to look out for.

Around 85 per cent would like to stay in unique accommodations when they travel next (formats such as heritage homes, havelis, farm stays and villas), exploring new destinations and places recommended by local hosts, family or friends.

The Gen X (89 per cent) and the millennials (86 per cent), who comprise a large pool of current and future travellers are leading this trend. Around 39 per cent of the millennials stated a firm intent to travel in 2021.

Local recommendations and social media will inspire travel.

The trend of hosted travel and local recommendations will also be fueled by millennials. Almost 63 per cent of that demographic are open to sharing their unique stays and experiences on social media to inspire travel among their peers.

Approximately 66 per cent of the respondents across age groups said that they love taking pictures to share on social media groups.

A home in the hills or a cottage overlooking the beach? Travellers are seeking solace in nature.

The travellers are looking for exclusive and secluded holidays in the lap of

nature. While the vaccine continues to be an encouraging factor propelling growth for industries including travel and tourism, 50 per cent of would-be travellers find travelling around nature more meaningful. This perpetuates a trend towards slower, sustainable and more regenerative travel.

Around 24 per cent of travellers would also look to go to a place in the

hills. Destinations like Manali, Mussoorie, Nainital, Ooty, Munnar, Coorg, and Kashmir are highly sought-after by travellers.

Around 53 per cent of Gen Z and Gen X respondents want to travel to any place close to nature, followed by millennials at 44 per cent.

Health and safety emerge as top priority.

Around 59 per cent of the respondents overall considered this a key priority with the number understandably increasing for respondents that are 40 and above.

Reinstating trust will help travel play a larger role in the recovery of communities across India. Stringent compliance with local regulations and enhanced measures such as the Enhanced Cleaning Protocol for local hosts will all drive up confidence to travel.

Travel becoming increasingly sustainable.

Finally, people are growing conscious of enabling sustainable travel through socio-cultural experiences that are authentic and embedded in communities, and through making environment-friendly choices when they travel.

An overwhelming 94 per cent of the respondents are looking at sustainable travel this year. This comes out strongly amid the backdrop of the pandemic with Indians becoming aware of their impact on the environment and wanting to give back to local communities.

Sustainable travel choices that are closer to remote communities and nature not only provide a boost to these communities and their members, but are accessible, affordable and are a transformative choice contributing to unique and individual travel experiences.

TREND BLAZER



ANEK TO RELEASE ON SEPTEMBER 17

AYUSHMANN KHURRANA tweeted that his film *Anek* will release on September 17. The film marks his return with director Anubhav Sinha after the 2019 release, *Article 15*.

"Naam #ANEK, lekin release date ek! Milte hai aapse September 17, 2021 ko!" Ayushmann wrote.

The film is currently on the floors in Assam. Ayushmann's slit eyebrow in the first look of the film has grabbed eyeballs.

fairtalk

RUBINA DILAİK



"My relationships will be ever evolving and not for a single day will I take my relationship for granted again. That's a promise I have made. I will move ahead with a clean slate. I am going to carry forward the ones that are good. The bad relationships, I have ended there (in *Bigg Boss 14*). The new story and new beginning will happen from here."

dailytalk

ARMAAN MALIK



"Strength to all those people struggling to make ends meet during this pandemic phase. I cannot even imagine what some of you must be going through. I was hoping for everything to get back normal, but it's just getting worse. I've been at home for a year now. It's just getting too much now. It's so tiring mentally and physically."

LOUISE REGRETS NOT SAVING HER MARRIAGE

Singer LOUISE REDKNAPP feels she should have worked harder to save her 21-year marriage with her ex-husband, former Liverpool and England football star Jamie Redknapp.

"I should have paused for a minute and thought about other people, and had just a bit more time to work out why I felt I couldn't do it anymore. All I know is, I wish I'd tried," Louise said.



Looking at bigger picture rotation policy has merit: Anderson



PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Veteran fast bowler James Anderson is pretty sure that the newly laid track at the Motera Stadium will be devoid of any grass for the upcoming Day/Night Test against India even though there is a nice green cover on it at the moment.

The third Test under lights will start from Wednesday and for England's premier fast bowler, he doesn't expect it to behave much differently from the second Test track at the Chepauk which India won by 317 runs. "The pitch, it has got grass on it but I am pretty sure it's not going to be there when we turn up on the match day," Anderson said with a wry smile during a virtual conference with British media on Sunday.

"So we have to wait and watch. As seam bowlers, we have to be prepared to bowl as best we can in any given condition. If it swings, it's great and if it does not, we still have a job to do," Anderson said. He felt that the pink SG Test ball that he bowled with during the net sessions, swung more than its red counterpart. "Look this is the second pink Test in India and first in February so we don't know how it would behave."

He urged critics of the much-debated rotation policy to look at the "bigger picture", considering the massive amount of cricket to be played by the England team in the coming days.

England did not play Jonny Bairstow and Mark Wood in the first two Tests but have brought them back for the final two games as part of a rotation policy while first-choice keeper Jos Buttler is back home after the opening Test. The idea is to help players cop up with life inside the bio-bubble.

"You have got to try and look at the bigger picture. The idea was if I missed that one, that would give me the best chance of being fit and firing for the pink-ball Test," Anderson said during virtual press conference.

Former players, especially Kevin Pietersen, have criticised ECB's thought process, saying the board must play its best players in a big series like this against India.

WTC win will be same as World Cup: Ishant



PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

On the cusp of becoming only the second Indian pacer after the legendary Kapil Dev to play 100 Tests, Ishant Sharma on Monday attributed his remarkable longevity in the game to understanding what the "captain wants from him".

Ishant made his Test debut as a gangly 18-year-old in Bangladesh when Rahul Dravid was the captain and subsequently was led by Anil Kumble, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, Virat Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane during the last decade and half.

So which captain understood him the best in all these

years? "It is difficult to say who understood me the most as all of them understood me really well. But more than the captain understanding me, it was always important as to how I understood the captain," Ishant said during a virtual press conference ahead of the third Test against England, beginning here on Wednesday.

"That's very important. What does the captain want from me specifically. If those things are clear, communication becomes easier," said the man who has 302 wickets from 99 Tests so far.

Does he think that being dropped from white ball squads and also missing out on a cou-

HUNDRED IS JUST A NUMBER FOR ME. IT'S LIKE HOW I PLAYED MY 99TH MATCH, WITH THE SAME FEELING, SAME INTENSITY AND SAME AGGRESSIVENESS, I WILL GO INTO MY 100TH MATCH. I DON'T PLAY FOR NUMBERS, I PLAY TO WIN.

—ISHANT SHARMA
(ON HIS MOTIVATION AS HE GOES INTO HIS 100TH TEST)

ple of seasons of IPL helped him reach the milestone quicker than many others?

"I normally treat this as a blessing in disguise. It's not that I don't want to play white ball as that's what is the job of a sportsman but if he is not playing, what does he do? At best he can train."

For him, it was important that he forgets what's not there and be grateful for what he has.

"I didn't want my Test cricket to get affected because of my non-selection in ODIs. I should be grateful that I am at least playing one format," he said.

"May be it helped me in completing 100 Tests. Having said that, I don't think had I

played three formats, I couldn't have played 100 Tests. May be it would have taken a bit longer. I am only 32 and not 42."

So does crossing Kapil Dev's 131 Tests cross his mind?

"(Crossing) 131 will take a long time. I only want to think about qualifying for the World Test Championship (WTC) final. This is my World Cup where if I win, I can have the same feeling that others had while winning the ODI world Cup."

Ask him about Jimmy Anderson playing at 38 and if he could continue till that age, he laughs. "I will go one game at a time. You never know what comes next. Yes, I am more professional about my recovery now. Earlier, I would train hard but didn't focus on my recovery. As you grow older, you need to recover well to bowl long spells, take care of your body."

On who will be the leader of the pack once he leaves the

scene, Ishant picked Jasprit Bumrah.

"I think I don't want to take one name. You are good and that's why you play for India. But I think, after me, it is Jasprit Bumrah, who will play most matches for India."

"I think he has to lead the way and also it will depend on how he speaks to youngsters, take them under his wings, groom them."

For fast bowlers to blossom, one needs to understand their skill sets and plan accordingly.

"(Navdeep) Saini has pace, (Mohammed) Siraj has control. You have to understand people's strength. Skill sets are different and if you tell Saini to bowl one area and Siraj to hit 140k, then you are not doing justice to their strengths," he explained.

As a parting shot, Ishant added: "As long as I can maintain the intensity in my game, I will play for India."

Fit again Umesh added to squad

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

Pacer Umesh Yadav was on Monday added to India's squad for the last two Tests against England after he passed a fitness test, while Shardul Thakur was released to compete in the ongoing Vijay Hazare one-day Championship.

"Team India fast bowler Umesh Yadav appeared for a fitness test on Sunday, 21st February at Motera. He has

cleared his fitness test and has been added to the squad for the last two Tests of the ongoing Paytm India-England Test series," said the BCCI in a statement. "Shardul Thakur has been released from the squad to take part in the Vijay Hazare Trophy," it added.

Yadav had suffered a calf muscle injury during the Melbourne Test against Australia in December, ruling him out for the rest of that series.

Stokes has ability to put bowlers on back foot: Thorpe

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

England assistant coach Graham Thorpe on Monday said Ben Stokes should not forget that he has the ability to put bowlers on the back foot as he tried to play down the star all-rounder's apparent struggles against seasoned Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin.

Stokes was dismissed thrice by Ashwin in the first two Tests in Chennai. The



power-hitter was, in fact, stifled quite remarkably by the local favourite in the second game.

When asked about Ashwin's command on Stokes, Thorpe said, "It is a challenge. Ben actually has at times different styles of playing. He can build into an innings as well."

"I think Ben also has that ability to put a bowler on the back foot as well, that is something which he certainly should not forget."

Thorpe also hinted that all players including Zak Crawley, who was ruled out of the first Two Tests due to an injury, are

available for selection.

"He (Crawley) is looking fit and I think we have probably got a full complement of players to pick from, so he (Crawley) will be certainly in the mix, and his injury seems to have healed for me, watching him in the nets," said Thorpe.

The assistant coach also said that the seamers could have more impact in the day-night Test despite the track being expected to favour slower bowlers.

"It is possible, I mean without looking into it, the crystal ball, but I would imagine that the ball generally does swing more under the lights," he reckoned.

'Game may change session wise in D/N Test'

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The game may change session wise in the third Test, reckoned Ishant Sharma on Monday, as India and England dive into an uncharted territory made up of pink balls, new stadium, newly laid strips and floodlights of different make.

India will take on England in a day-night Test at the Sardar Patel Stadium, the world's largest cricket venue with a seating capacity of 1,10,000, from Wednesday.

Asked whether the Indian bowlers would use the short-ball tactic during the twilight period, Ishant said, "That we get to know once we play at this ground, because it is renovated I can't really say anything now."



"We can't say what (will) trouble the batsmen and what will not, there will be a lot of things (that) we will have to see, we don't know how we will have to tackle all these things, there will be dew..."

Ishant, who is standing on the cusp of playing his 100 Tests, said each bowler will have to take responsibility session wise.

"How the wicket is here and how they (England) play, obviously under lights the ball swings, but you will have to see the dew factor, so there will be many things, and you cannot straightaway say that whether fast bowlers will remain in the game or the spinners."

"I feel the game will change session wise and each bowler will have to take responsibility

session wise, who knows the ball might turn in the beginning here."

"Who knows if the spinners come to play in first two sessions, but under lights, when there is dew, the ball does not swing, but skids and comes onto the bat."

"Then, spinners are not in the game and fast bowlers are, so it depends on the situation and how the ball and wicket is behaving at that time," he said.

The veteran pacer backed the team's batsmen to come good, saying they are capable of dealing with the conditions.

"I am sure our batsmen are really capable enough to tackle all those things, how they need to go and build their innings, to go on through the Test match," he added.

ROGI KALYAN SAMITI
SUB DIVISIONAL HOSPITAL, KHARIAR
DIST: NUAPADA, ODISHA, 766107
E-mail: bprnuakharier@gmail.com

Letter No: 124 /2021 Date: 17.2.2021

NOTICE INVITING BID

Sealed tenders are invited from eligible bidders for supply of Advanced Life Saving Ambulances to SDH, Khariar, Dist - Nuapada. The bid document with all information relating to the bidding process including cost of bid document, EMD, Eligibility criteria and terms & conditions are available in the website: www.nuapada.nic.in. Interested eligible bidder can submit the bid on or before 03/03/2021 by 5 P.M through Regd Post/Speed post/ Courier or can be dropped at tender box at office of the Superintendent, SDH, Khariar. The tender will be opened on 04/03/2021 at 11 A.M in the office of the undersigned. The Authority reserves the right to accept/ reject any part thereof or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

OIPR-10149/11/0002/2021 Medical Officer I/C CHC, Khariar

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, SOUTHERN (R&B) CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
Phone : 0680-2281582, FAX : 0680-2281582, e-mail : sescpww@yahoo.co.in
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB) [e-Procurement]

Bid Identification No. S.E. S.C (R&B)-BAM-10/2020-21 No. 334 // Dated : 10.02.2021

- The Superintending Engineer, Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Road / Building Works as detailed in the table below.
- Nature of work : Road / Building Works
- No. of work : 05 Nos.
- Tender Cost : Rs.10,000/- (online)
- Class of Contractor : "B" and "A" Class
- Availability of Bid document in the website : From 26.02.2021 10.00 AM to 15.03.2021 4.00 PM
- Date of Opening of Bid : 16.03.2021 at 11.30 A.M.
- The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website <https://tendersorissa.gov.in>.
- Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.

OIPR-34103/11/0011/2021 Superintending Engineer Southern (R&B) Circle, Berhampur

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
RWSS DIVISION, NAYAGARH
Khandapada Road, Near Fire Station, Pin-752069
E-Mail: eerwss_nay@nic.in or eerwssnaysgargh@gmail.com
☎ (06753) 2522173

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
IDENTIFICATION NO: RWSS&S DIVN., NAYAGARH-38 OF 2020-21

The Executive Engineer, RWSS&S Division, Nayagarh on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage rate price bids through e-procurement in single cover system according to the norms of e-procurement system, on-line mode from eligible contractors.

Sl. No.	Nature of work:	Repair of Rural Piped Water Supply
1.	No. of works:	04(Four)
2.	Estimated Cost:	Rs 95.10 to 21.65 lakhs (app.)
3.	Time for completion:	02(Two) Months & 03 (Three) months.
4.	Cost of bidding document:	Rs.4000/- and Rs. Rs.6000/-
5.	Class of Contractors eligible:	D&C
6.	Availability of bids on-line:	From 11 hour of 24.02.2021 to 17.00 hours of 08.03.2021
7.	Last date and time for seeking clarification:	17.00 hours of 03.03.2021
8.	Date & time of opening of technical bids:	On dt 09.03.2021 at 11.30 Hours in the office of the Executive Engineer, RWSS&S Division, Nayagarh (All documents should be submitted in online only. No original documents should be dropped in dropping box before opening of technical bid in Division Office).
9.	Date and time of opening of financial bids:	To be decided.

Further details can be seen from the website <https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in>. Subsequent corrigendum if any shall appear in the web site.

OIPR-25042/11/0003/2021 Executive Engineer RWSS&S Division, Nayagarh

Deadly Devon

Conway's third nineties score in as many innings helps Black Caps beat Australia by 53 runs



AFP ■ CHRISTCHURCH

A Devon Conway batting masterclass inspired New Zealand to a 53-run win over Australia in the opening T20 International in Christchurch on Monday.

Conway smashed an unbeaten 99 off 59 balls as the Black Caps overcame a shaky start to finish on 184/5 after losing the toss and being put in to bat.

In reply, the tourists were all out for 131 after 17.3 overs, with Black Caps spinner Ish Sodhi taking 4/28 to give the hosts an early edge in the five-match series.

Jhye Richardson, fresh from signing a multi-million dollar Indian Premier League contract, was the pick of the Australian bowlers, taking 2/31.

But the tourists could not dislodge Conway, whose 59-ball knock included 10 fours and three sixes, helping the Black Caps bounce back.

Conway said he was "pretty chuffed" with his career-best effort, even though he was stranded just short of a century after failing to take two runs off the final ball.

The frustrated Australians then suffered a horror show early in their innings, as seamers Tim Southee and Trent Boult tore through the top order. Luckless debutant Josh Philippe departed for two after sending a top-edge skyward.

But old campaigners such as skipper Aaron Finch and Glenn Maxwell also failed to deal with the swinging ball and the tourists were soon 19/4.

Mitch Marsh top-scored with 45 and Ashton Agar contributed 23 a string of batting failures gave New Zealand a comfortable win.

National Health Mission
Department of Health & Family Welfare
Government of Madhya Pradesh

CORRIGENDUM

SN/NHM/HWC/MP/2020-21/3251 Bhopal Date-18/02/2021

The National Health Mission (NHM), Madhya Pradesh invited online applications for the 1680 vacant seats of 6 months Certificate in Community Health and 1890 post of Community Health Officers (CHOs) by Direct recruitment entrance examination vide its circular no. SN/NHM/HWC/MP/2020-21/1509 Bhopal, Date-29/01/2020.

The advertisement shall have following corrections,

- Advertisement issued for 1890 posts of CHO Direct Recruitment Entrance Examination is hereby cancelled with immediate effect.
- For the entrance examination for the certificate course in community health, the amended available seats as per the session and reservation roster are as follows. (Centre wise seats availability is displayed in SAMS website)

CCCH Batch	Total Seats	UR -27%		UR-EWS - 10%		ST - 20%		SC - 16%		OBC - 14%		PH - 6%			
		Open	Female	Open	Female	Open	Female	Open	Female	Open	Female	VH	HH	OH	MD
Apr-21	585	105	53	39	19	78	39	63	31	55	27	0	0	35	0
Jul-21	1680	303	151	112	56	224	112	179	90	157	78	0	0	87	0
Oct-21	585	105	53	39	19	78	39	63	31	55	27	0	0	35	0
Total	2850	513	257	190	94	380	190	305	152	267	132	0	0	157	0

Note: (1) The remaining 13% seats/posts shall be allotted after the decision of Hon. High Court.
(2) 33% seats/posts shall be reserved for female candidates.

- Essential Eligibility Criteria:** Successfully passed B.Sc. (Nursing) / Post Basic B.Sc. (Nursing) / GNM / BAMS degree candidates, as on 19th February 2021.
- Eligible candidates shall be mandatorily required to upload valid registration certificate or application (Nursing Registration Council/Ayurveda, Unani Medical System and Naturopathy Medical Board)
- Candidates pursuing Final Year's of B.Sc. (Nursing)/ Post Basic BSC (Nursing)/GNM and BAMS candidates whose internship is not completed as on 19th February 2021, shall not be eligible.
- Receipt of Online Applications has been extended till 11:59 pm on February 28, 2021.
- All the rules mentioned in the rule book related to CHO Direct Recruitment are hereby cancelled.
- Other conditions and rules will remain the same.

Mission Director, NHM, Madhya Pradesh

National Health Mission, Madhya Pradesh
Link Road No-03, In front of Patrakar Colony, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh 462016
Website: www.nhmmp.gov.in and www.sams.co.in
HelpLine No.011 4081 9900; Email:mpcho@sams.co.in

G-19661/20