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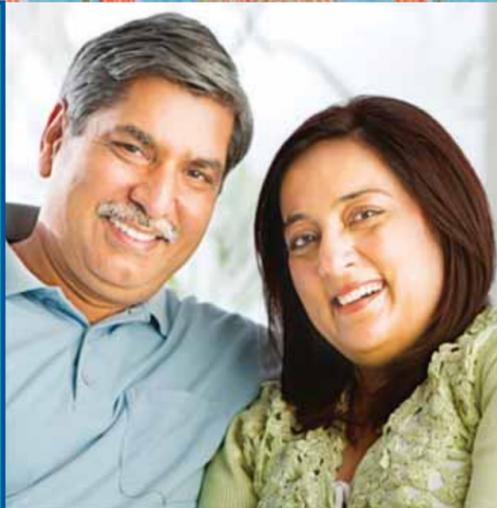
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22% Indians carry coronavirus

30 crore people infected, as per ICMR survey; 1.08 crore cases officially; some cities reaching herd immunity against Covid-19

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

About one in four of India's 135 crore people may have been infected with the coronavirus as per a new ICMR survey, said sources in the Union Health Ministry suggesting that at least 30 crore people were infected with the pathogen. The Government has officially confirmed 1.08 crore Covid cases.

"The infection figures are much higher in many cities, strengthening the epidemiological theory that some cities in the country may be approaching herd immunity as evident in the falling daily numbers of new cases," said an official from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) which had conducted the survey.

"Like the previous two surveys, the seropositivity has been found to be way higher particularly in urban slums and generally in urban areas as compared to rural areas."

In addition, samples from 100 healthcare workers from both Government and private facilities in each of these 70 districts were also collected for the antibody tests. Unlike the previous surveys that only looked for antibodies against the viral nucleocapsid, researchers in the third survey also tested for spike protein antibodies, which last longer in the bloodstream.



A medic inoculates first dose of Covid-19 vaccine to a health worker at a Government hospital in Kolkata on Wednesday PTI

Following another survey done in August and September using blood samples of more than 29,000 people older than 10, the ICMR had concluded that one in 15 Indians had Covid-19 antibodies. The figure jumped to one in six in densely-populated urban slums.

The first serosurvey round conducted in 70 districts estimated 64 lakh infections in May-June 2020. By the second round conducted in August, the estimate was up to 7.4 crore.

The third serosurvey country-wide study outcome by the ICMR came a day after Delhi's

fifth serosurvey report which pointed out that one in two residents in the national Capital has been exposed to the coronavirus and developed antibodies for the infection.

Separate tests done on more than seven lakh people across India by diagnostics company Thyrocare Technologies showed 55 per cent of the population may have already been infected, its chief told a news agency last week, as per the reports.

On Wednesday, the country reported 11,039 new cases to touch the tally of 1.07 crore

while deaths rose by 110 to 1,54,596. Maharashtra reported maximum casualties with 30 new fatalities. It is followed by Kerala with 16 new daily deaths.

The Government data said that 14,225 new recoveries were registered in the last 24 hours on Wednesday which has led to a net decline of 3,296 cases from the total active caseload.

The total recovered cases are 1,04,62,631. The national recovery rate (97.08%) continues to be one of the highest globally. The gap between active cases and recovered cases

RENEWED HOPE

Like the previous two surveys, the seropositivity has been found to be way higher particularly in urban slums and generally in urban areas as compared to rural areas

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The third serosurvey country-wide study outcome by the ICMR came a day after Delhi's fifth serosurvey report which pointed out that one in two residents in the national Capital has been exposed to the coronavirus and developed antibodies for the infection

The total recovered cases are 1,04,62,631. The national recovery rate (97.08%) continues to be one of the highest globally.

is continuously increasing and stands at 1,03,02,574. Thirty-one States and UTs have less than 5,000 active cases said the Ministry.

Govt warns Twitter for unblocking #genocide

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday directed Twitter to comply with its order to remove contents/accounts related to farmer genocide hashtags, and warned that the microblogging platform may face "penal action" for non-compliance of its order.

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) served notice to Twitter for ignoring its order and unblocking the handles after 24 hours. Ministry officials said that Twitter had unilaterally unblocked accounts and tweets despite specific orders for blocking them. Twitter is an 'intermediary' and is obliged to obey the direction of Government. They said that the platform may face penal action for not complying with Government orders. The Government notice quoted more than half a dozen Supreme Court judgments, including of constitutional benches as to what is public order and what the rights of authorities are.

In its notice IT Ministry asserted that Twitter cannot assume the role of court and justify non-compliance. The Ministry had recently directed Twitter to block around 250 tweets/Twitter accounts that were making "fake, intimidatory and provocative tweets" on January 30 with hashtags accusing the Modi Government of planning farmers "genocide"

Comply with order or face action, you can't act like courts: Ministry

The Ministry of Electronics and IT recently directed Twitter to block around 250 tweets/Twitter accounts that made 'fake and provocative tweets' with hashtags accusing the Govt of planning farmers' 'genocide' without any substantiation

Twitter is an 'intermediary' and is obliged to obey the direction of Government, says the Ministry

Ministry officials said that Twitter had unilaterally unblocked accounts and tweets despite specific orders for blocking them



without any substantiation.

The 18-page notice stated that the "impracticability or the disproportionality of the said measure cannot be decided (by) Twitter which is an intermediary bound by the orders of the Central Government."

Around 100 Twitter accounts and 150 tweets related to the farmers' protests went off the microblogging platform on Monday morning as the IT Ministry directed Twitter to remove these accounts under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act. However, the accounts

were unblocked late Monday night after a meeting with IT Ministry officials.

Rules under 69A of the IT Act are used often in Government-mandated Internet takedowns. The rules allow the government to block public access to information from a computer "in the interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, the security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement to the commission of any cognizable offence relating to above."

CAPSULE

JEFF BEZOS TO STEP DOWN AS AMAZON CEO
New York: Billionaire Jeff Bezos — who founded Amazon as an online bookseller nearly three decades ago — will step down as the CEO with Andy Jassy being named his successor.

SC REFUSES PLEA AGAINST CONVERSION LAWS
New Delhi: The Supreme Court refused to entertain a plea challenging the validity of laws enacted by States, including UP and Uttarakhand, which deal with religious conversion by marriage and others.

PRAVEEN SINHA NAMED INTERIM CBI DIRECTOR
New Delhi: CBI Additional Director Praveen Sinha has been appointed acting chief of the agency till a decision on a new director is taken to succeed Rishi Kumar Shukla who retired on Wednesday.

GIRL RAPED, KILLED WITH FATHER, NIECE
Korba: A 16-year-old girl was allegedly raped and smashed to death with stones in Korba district of Chhattisgarh, police said. The accused allegedly also killed the girl's father and his four-year-old granddaughter.

₹1L reward for info on Deep Sidhu

Delhi Police also announces ₹50K on others, advises netizens to avoid sharing fake news

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has announced a cash reward of ₹1 lakh each for information that can lead to the arrest of actor Deep Sidhu and three others — Jugraj Singh, Gurjot Singh and Gurjant Singh — who are accused of instigating the protesting farmers to storm the Red Fort on Republic Day.

Cash reward of ₹50,000 each was also announced for Buta Singh, Sukhdev Singh, Jagbir Singh and Iqbal Singh for allegedly instigating protesters, police said.

Police teams are looking for Sidhu and Jugraj Singh, Gurjant Singh, Gurjot Singh, Boota Singh, Sukhbir Singh, Jagbir Singh and Iqbal Singh for violence and hosting a religious flag at Red Fort on Republic Day.



Deep Sidhu

Meanwhile, the Cyber Crime unit (CYPAD) has also registered four FIRs against several social media accounts and sent requests for removal of offensive posts.

Police arrested one accused for posting old video along with fake news of resignation by 200 police personnel, while one was apprehended from Bharatpur for sharing fake information on Twitter.

According to a senior police official, several other

accused indulging in such activities have been identified and efforts are underway to arrest them.

"The Delhi Police is acting against the massive misinformation campaign on the social media those who are trying to create disturbance and incite violence in the name of ongoing farmers protest," said IPS, Chinmoy Biswal, the Public Relation Officer (PRO) of Delhi Police.

"Police teams have noticed several activities and misinformation of social media which includes, fake news about police firing against the protesters, despite the fact that over 500 police personnel got injured," said

"Fake news about resignation by 200 police personnel in support of farmers' protest was spread. Old images and videos of law & order action, that are unrelated to the current situation in Delhi, are being peddled to generate resentment against the administration," said Biswal.

"Citizens are advised to avoid sharing or posting any fake news and unverified contents on social media," Biswal added.

Celebrities' pro-kisan comments inaccurate: MEA

Ministry calls Rihanna, Greta's tweets irresponsible, slams vested interests

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Taking strong exception to some foreign celebrities, including top pop singer Rihanna, backing the ongoing farmers' protest here, India on Wednesday said only a "small section" of the farmers was agitating and talks were on to resolve the issue. New Delhi also said such comments by celebrities and others are "neither accurate nor responsible."

Rihanna, who has 100 million followers on Twitter and is among the most followed people on the microblogging site, on Tuesday tweeted protesting against the internet shutdown near the protest site.

Later, Greta Thunberg also backed the agitation, tweeting, "We stand in solidarity with the #FarmersProtest in India."

"The temptation of sensationalist social media hashtags and comments, especially when resorted to by celebrities and others, is neither accurate nor responsible," the External Affairs Ministry said.

By all accounts, this is seen as the recognition of the



Government's concerns that the farmers' protest is invoking sympathetic response in the international arena and harming the country's image abroad.

The Ministry also said Parliament passed the reformist legislation relating to the agricultural sector, and noted that some of vested interest groups have tried to mobilise international support against India.

"We would like to emphasise that these protests must be seen in the context of India's democratic ethos and polity, and efforts of the Government and the concerned farmer

groups to resolve the impasse," the statement said.

The Government said Parliament after debate and discussion passed "reformist legislation relating to the agricultural sector" and the reforms "give expanded market access and provided greater flexibility to farmers."

Stating that a small section was agitating, the External Affairs Ministry said the Government, "respecting the sentiments of the protesters", has initiated talks.

"The Government has even offered to keep the laws

on hold, an offer iterated by no less than the Prime Minister of India," the MEA said.

"Yet, it is unfortunate to see vested interest groups trying to enforce their agenda on these protests. This was egregiously witnessed on January 26, India's Republic Day. A cherished national commemoration, the anniversary of the inauguration of the Constitution was besmirched, and violence and vandalism took place in the Capital.

"Some of these vested interest groups have also tried to mobilise international support against India. Instigated by such fringe elements, Mahatma Gandhi statues have been desecrated in parts of the world. This is extremely disturbing for India and for civilised society everywhere," the Ministry said.

The Government said the police had handled the protests with the utmost restraint. "It may be noted that hundreds of men and women serving in the police have been physically attacked, and in some cases stabbed and wounded."

Bengal Rath Yatra: Didi leaves it to dist admin; BJP adamant

Modi to visit State on Feb 7, BJP hardens stand

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

BJP's Rath Yatra politics seems to be facing a serious challenge in West Bengal ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's February 7 rally in Haldia where he will launch a number of Central projects.

The State Government has passed the onus of permitting the four proposed Rath Yatras — each one to be flagged off by either Home Minister Amit Shah or party national president JP Nadra — beginning February 6 on district administrations.

The BJP leadership has hardened its stance saying, "We will go any length to ensure that the Rath Yatra takes place at any cost."



tion seeking permission for the four Rath Yatras, the State Government on Friday told the BJP that permission would be granted by the respective district administrations and not Nabanna (the State administrative headquarters), sources said. BJP State spokesperson Samik Bhattacharya said, "The Government is trying to shift the onus on lesser authorities as

the process to spike the Yatra... but if they do so this time we will hit the streets and ensure that the Government is forced to give us permission... this police raj cannot go on for too long... Come what may the Yatra is on and we have made all preparations for it."

Bhattacharya's statement came hours after a Public Interest Litigation being filed in Calcutta High Court seeking a ban on the Yatra on grounds of law and order. The matter is likely to be heard on Thursday.

Earlier BJP State vice-president Pratap Banerjee, in a letter to Chief Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay, wrote about five rallies crisscrossing the entire State. The BJP had decided to carry out a "peaceful political programme throughout Bengal in the form of "yatra" in February and March 2021. There will be five segments — covering all the Assembly constituencies of West Bengal.

India's reputation has taken massive hit with barricading at Delhi's borders: Rahul

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In the wake of international celebrities lending support to the agitating farmers, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday said the "reputation of India has taken a massive hit" with barricading at Delhi's borders.

"Delhi is surrounded by farmers. They're the people who give us sustenance. Why is Delhi being converted into a fortress? Why are we threatening, beating, and killing them? Why is the Government not talking to them and not resolving this problem? This problem isn't good for the country," Rahul Gandhi said at AICC Press conference.

To a question if India's image at the international level has taken a beating with barricading at Delhi's borders with concertina wire and spikes, Rahul said, "Absolutely the reputation of India has taken a

massive hit. Not only on how we are treating our farmers, but on how we treat our people, how we treat journalists."

Rahul said that the Government should give into the demands of the protesting farmers and repeal the contentious farm laws.

"The PM said that the offer is still on the table to post-pone laws for two years. What does it mean? Either you believe that you need to get rid of the laws or you don't. I feel this issue needs to be resolved as soon as possible and Government needs to listen as farmers aren't going away. Ultimately, the Government will have to bow down, it is better to do that right now," he asserted.

Reacting to Budget 2021-22 announcements, Rahul Gandhi accused the Government of putting money in the hands of just 5-10 people.

In touch with better-linked allies India, Japan on Myanmar: US

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

Termining the military detention of civilian leaders in Myanmar a coup, a senior US State Department official on Tuesday said the US is in touch with like-minded allies like India and Japan on the latest developments in the Southeast Asian nation as they have better contact with the military there.

Myanmar's military on Monday staged a coup and detained top political figures, including de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi. It was also announced that the military had taken control of the country for one year.

"We have certainly been in frequent contact with our like-minded allies and partners in the region. You mentioned Japan and India. We're having daily ongoing conversations with them, and we certainly appreciate that some other countries have better contact

with Burmese military than we do, so we're continuing those conversations," a senior State Department official said during a conference call.

"After a careful review of the facts and circumstances, we have assessed that Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of Burma's ruling party, and Win Myint, the duly elected head of Government, were deposed in a military coup on February 1," the official said.

"We continue to call on the Burmese military leadership to release them and all other detained civil society and political leaders immediately and unconditionally," the official said.

The US has denounced in the strongest possible terms Myanmar's military leaders for seeking to reject the will of the people of the country's as expressed in democratic elections on November 8th and for taking control of the Government.

"We continue to stand with the people of Burma, as we have done for decades, in their efforts to achieve democracy, freedom, peace, and development," said the official.

The Biden administration, the official said, rejects any attempt by the military to alter the outcome of the November 2020 election in Burma.

China against UNSC resolution that may complicate matters

Beijing: China on Wednesday said it is opposed to any strong resolution by the UNSC condemning the military coup in Myanmar and insisted that any action by the international community should not escalate the tensions and complicate matters.

Detailed report on P9

FARMERS' STIR Ban on scribes' entry to Singhu wrong: SKU

'Support from global personalities, movement getting stronger, support in UP Mahapanchayats'

STAFF REPORTER ■ GHAZIABAD/DELHI

The Sanyukta Kisan Morcha on Wednesday acknowledged the support of international personalities towards the ongoing farmers' protest in the national Capital. "We condemn the police action to stop the entry of journalists into the Singhu border."

"The Government is fearful of the reality of this movement reaching the common people across the country and is doing its best to block communication from the protest sites. By doing all this the Government wants to spread its propaganda, which the farmers will not allow at any cost," SKM alleged.

Meanwhile, stringent security measures continued to be in place, across the borders including Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur borders. The authorities also restored internet services across the border after the Ministry of Home Affairs issued directions to activate the services.

The SKM in a statement on Wednesday said that it is a matter of pride that eminent personalities of the world are showing sensitivity towards the cause of farmers the Centre Government is not understanding the pain of the farmers and some people are even calling peaceful farmers as terrorists.

"The farmer movement is



getting stronger day by day. After heavy support in Kisan Mahapanchayats in Uttar Pradesh, farmers have organized Mahapanchayats in Dabra and Phulbhag in Madhya Pradesh, Mehandipur in Rajasthan and Jind in Haryana. A large number of farmers will be coming to Delhi in the coming days," SKM statement read.

"Farmers from Rajasthan and Punjab are reaching the Shahjahanpur border continuously. After the atrocities of the Government, farmers have again started a dharna at Palwal border. In the coming days, a large number of farmers will

reach this site from Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan," they stated.

"The SKM takes note of the transport related issues that were discussed by Kundli and Singhu enterprises and is intent on resolving the same to the extent possible," the SKM stated.

"The SKM also extends support to the one day strike of electricity workers across the country. "We strongly oppose the privatization of electricity sector. The Draft Electricity Amendment Bill 2020 is an attack on farmers as well as other citizens," they stated.

The MHA had announced

suspension of internet services at the three border points of Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur and their adjoining areas from 11 pm on January 29 effective till 11 pm on January 31. Later it extended the suspension till 11 pm on February 2.

"There has been no further extension of internet suspension at these sites as of now," a Home Ministry official said on Wednesday.

Ghaziabad Superintendent of Police (City 2) Gyanendra Singh said that the internet services have been restored but there could be glitches or slow speed due to crowd at the protest site.

Iron nails studded on roads, multi-layer iron and concrete barricades, concertina wires remained fixed as large number of security personnel were deployed as fortification of Ghazipur, Singhu and Tikri borders continued to prevent protesters' movement to Delhi.

On the security apparatus at the protest sites, Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava had Tuesday told media, "We have only strengthened the barricading so that it is not broken again."

Thousands of farmers have been protesting at the Delhi borders with Haryana and Uttar Pradesh, demanding a rollback of the Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; Farmers' (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020; and the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020.

The protesting farmers have expressed the apprehension that these laws would pave the way for the dismantling of the minimum support price (MSP) system, leaving them at the "mercy" of big corporations.

However, the government has maintained that the new laws will bring better opportunities to farmers and introduce new technologies in agriculture.

City Govt to help trace farmers missing from protest sites: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday said his Government will help trace the farmers missing since the January 26 violence and if the need arises, he will approach the Lieutenant Governor and the Centre.

Kejriwal on Wednesday issued a list of 115 names that have been arrested and put in different jails across Delhi in connection to the unrest that happened on January 26. The development came after many farmer unions, as well as people from various organizations, reached out to the Delhi government, owing to their family members who have gone missing from the protest sites.

"We are releasing a list of 115 protesters who were arrested by police in relation to the Republic Day incident and are in different jails in the city. Our government will make every effort to trace the protesters who are missing and I will even speak to the Lieutenant Governor and the central government if the need arises," he said.

A delegation from the legal team of the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha met Kejriwal and presented him a list of 29 missing farmers. It also demanded a judicial inquiry into the alleged "conspiracy against the farmers' protest" and constitution of a medical board to examine those in jail.

Kejriwal assured the people that he will try his best to trace the missing protesters and connect them with their families.



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal addresses a Press conference in New Delhi PTI

A delegation from the legal team of the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha met Kejriwal and presented him a list of 29 missing farmers

While assuring all support, Kejriwal said that he will also speak to the LG and the Centre if required.

"Many people have reached out to the Delhi government in the last few days owing to their family members who were protesting against the farm laws have gone missing, and they are unable to connect to them. I can understand the pain and suffering of these people, who are unable to connect to their family members and children, are going through. It is the responsibility of every government to find the missing people and intimate their fam-

ilies regarding the same," he said.

The chief minister further said that there are people who are lodged in Delhi jails after being arrested in connection with the unfortunate violence that happened on 26th January. "It is possible that many of those missing had been arrested in connection with the chaos at Red Fort, due to which they are not able to connect to their families. We have created a list of the people who are in jails in connection to 26th January. The Delhi Police has arrested several people and lodged them in different jails across Delhi," he said.

The farmer unions protesting at Delhi borders for scrapping of the Centre's farm laws have claimed that several are missing since the Republic Day violence. Delhi Police has said that it has arrested 122 protesters so far in connection with the January 26 violence.

Activist Yogita gets notice for her 'fake' Jan 26 violence tweets

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police asked social activist Yogita Bhayana to appear for questioning in a notice sent to her over her "fake" Twitter posts on the Republic Day violence in the national capital. Meanwhile, Bhayana accused the Delhi Police of suppressing her voice, and said her only "crime" was that she had been supporting the farmers protesting against three Central agricultural laws.

The notice has been sent to Bhayana asking her to appear before the police in a case registered under Indian Penal Code sections 153 (wantonly giving provocation with intent to cause riot), 153A (promoting enmity between different groups), and 505(1)(b) (circulating statement, rumour that may induce somebody to commit an offence against the State or against the public tranquility).

"This is to inform you that investigation of the above said



case is being carried out. During investigation, it was found that the two allegedly fake posts were uploaded from your Twitter account," the notice stated.

"You are requested to inform the source and reason for uploading the posts. You are also requested to inform the date, time of place where you will be available for the investigation. Please inform the said details within two days from the receipt of this notice," it further stated.

In a tweet in Hindi, which she has pinned on her wall,

Bhayana said, "The Delhi Police has registered an FIR against me. My crime is that I have been supporting the farmers in their protest. The Delhi Police wants to suppress my voice."

In another tweet, she said, "I feel Delhi Police is misgoverned and doing exactly opposite of what we expect from them. I am with farmers and I know I am fighting for truth."

On January 30, the Delhi Police had filed a case against Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, senior journalist Rajdeep Sardesai, The Caravan maga-

zine and others for allegedly misleading public regarding the death of a protester at ITO during a tractor parade by farmers on January 26 which had turned violent.

Earlier, Tharoor and six journalists were booked by the Noida Police for sedition, among other charges, over the violence during the farmers' tractor rally in Delhi. The Madhya Pradesh police has also filed a case against Tharoor and the six journalists over their alleged "misleading" tweets on the violence during the farmers' tractor rally in Delhi.

On January 26, thousands of protesting farmers had clashed with the police during the tractor rally called by farmer unions to highlight their demand for repeal of the Centre's three farm laws.

One protesting farmers had died at ITO during the march, with the Delhi Police saying he was killed after his tractor overturned.

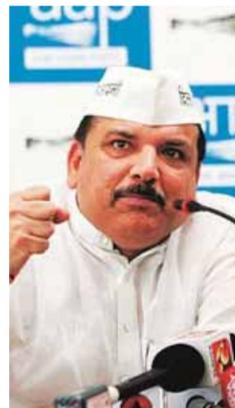
Congress made backdoor deal with BJP to not raise farmers' protest issue in RS: Sanjay

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and Rajya Sabha MP Sanjay Singh on Wednesday said the Congress party has made a backdoor deal with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to not raise the issue of farmers' protests separately and aggressively inside Parliament.

Singh said, "Today when AAP MPs were marshalled out from the Rajya Sabha, the Congress party remained a mute spectator."

"Farmer's leader Rakesh Tikait today also recognised the fact that the BJP and Congress have worked together to impose these farm laws. The BJP is treating these protesting farmers as terrorists and anti-nationals. These farmers are protesting for the last more than two months and due to their adamancy, the BJP ruled the central government has not yet accepted the demands of the farmers," he said.



The AAP leader also accused the BJP and the police to torture poor farmers. They (Delhi Police) have used water cannon, teargas and beaten them up with lathis. The police have arrested innocent farmers across the age group," he said.

BJP not providing dry ration for children of MCD schools: AAP

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)—ruled municipal Corporations of not releasing the dry ration provided by the Delhi Government for the corporation's run school children.

Party senior leader Durgest Pathak said that the BJP has a corrupt nexus with industrialists and diverting the dry ration provided by the Kejriwal government. "The corporations are involved in corruption with the money provided for the dry ration of these poor children. It has not provided ration for the last several months to children," he said.

The AAP leader said that if the BJP does not release the dry ration within four days then the party will launch a massive protest against the BJP ruled MCD. Pathak said, "Last year Delhi and the entire nation wit-

nessed the COVID-19 pandemic which devastated the lives of many people. Every person of our society faced some kind of loss due to the pandemic but the worst affected section was the poor children of the government or local body-led schools. Last year to continue the education system online education was being used across the schools in India but the children from lower economic background families always could not avail these classes."

"The Kejriwal government did not do any kind of discrimination and it was decided that this scheme will be implemented in both Delhi government schools and BJP ruled MCD run schools. The Delhi government is providing this dry ration from its own budget. It is utterly shameful that the BJP ruled MCD is not distributing the dry ration to the children," he said.

9 global, domestic companies participate in bid to redevelop New Delhi Rly Station

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Indian Railways on Wednesday said nine global and domestic companies including Adani Railways

Transport, ISQ Asia Infrastructure Investments, and GMR Highways, have participated in a bid to redevelop the New Delhi Railway Station.

Also, in the request for quotation (RFQ) which opened on Wednesday, other companies such as ISQ Asia Infrastructure Investments, Anchorage Infrastructure Investments Holdings Limited, Kalpataru Power Transmission, BIF IV India Infrastructure Holding, Omaxe Limited and Elpis Ventures participated.

According to a statement released by the railways, these companies will now undergo technical evaluation. In the next stage, the Rail Land Development Authority (RLDA) will float the request for proposal (RFP) for select-

ed participants who get qualified in the technical process, it said.

The development follows the pre-bid meetings and virtual roadshows that apprised the stakeholders of various developments and elicited feedback on the project, it said.

New Delhi Railway Station Redevelopment is a flagship project of the RLDA, and the first to be undertaken on the Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) concept in Delhi-NCR.

It will incur capital expenditure at around USD 680 million and will be developed on a Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer (DBFOT) model.

The project offers multiple revenue streams to the developer, including revenue from real estate rights and is slated



to be completed in around four years. The concession period is for 60 years, it said.

"The redevelopment of the New Delhi Railway Station is our flagship project that will stimulate economic development of NCR. The project attracted interest from various national and international stakeholders," said Ved Parkash Dubeja, Vice Chairman, RLDA.

"It will be instrumental in augmenting the local economy, generating employment opportunities and boosting tourism potential of Delhi-NCR, ensur-

ing Inclusive Development for Aspirational India," he said.

The station is strategically located in the heart of Delhi and has proximity to Connaught Place, Delhi's prime commercial hub, it said.

It will be redeveloped into a world-class station in line with global standards with dome-shaped terminal buildings and two arrival and departure areas at the concourse

level, the statement said.

It will also have two multimodal transport hubs on every side, 40-foot high-rise twin towers (with hotel/offices and retail at podium) and pedestrian boulevard with high-street shopping outlets, it said.

Pedestrian movement, cycle tracks, and green tracks have been integrated into the proposed development plan.

Second round of vaccination to begin on Feb 4 in Gurugram

Gurugram: The second phase of Covid-19 vaccine will begin in Gurugram from February 4 and frontline workers will get the jab during the drive.

Officials say around 18,000 frontline warriors will be vaccinated in this phase, including police personnel, Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) workers and Revenue department officials at 11 vaccination centres, Civil Surgeon of Gurugram Dr. Virender Yadav said on Wednesday.

The Gurugram health department has vaccinated around 23,000 health workers till Wednesday during the successful implementation of its first phase, the officials said.

"Under the second phase in the district, a target has been set to provide Covid jab to about 18,000 front line workers. For this, vaccination centers have been set up at 11 places in which a vaccine will be provided from 9 am to 5 pm," Yadav said. For the front line workers belonging to the Police Department, 5 places - Police Commissioner Office, Police Line Gurugram, DCP East Office, Police Station Sohna and Police Station Manesar have been earmarked. SR

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, XVIIIth CIRCLE, U.P. JAL NIGAM, R-1, RAJ NAGAR, GHAZIABAD E-TENDER NOTICE

Letter No. 43/विनि-13/05 Date: 22.01.2021

U.P. Jal Nigam, E-tenders are invited on two bid system for Supply of 1225 MT High Basicity Poly Aluminium Chloride (PAC) as per IS:15573-2005 or its latest amendments including loading, unloading, transportation etc. complete at 120 MLD Water Treatment Plant, Pratap Vihar and 245 MLD Water Treatment Plant, Siddharth Vihar, Ghaziabad under O&M of 50 cusec and 100 Cusec Ganga Jal Project" from the independent contractors/contracting firms having requisite work experience and financial capability. Tender document shall be available at e-procurement website <http://etender.up.nic.in> latest by 05.02.2021 at 18:00 hrs. Interested contractors may view & download tender document and upload their tender, duly filled, online latest by 05.03.2021 upto 12:00 hrs. Technical/Pre-Qualification part of which shall be opened on 05.03.2021 at 03:30 hrs onwards.

चौ चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ ई-निविदा सूचना

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या : अमि/2020-21/01 (15) दिनांक : 02.02.2021

विश्वविद्यालय में सिलिल कार्य हेतु लोक निर्माण विभाग/सिंचाई विभाग/अन्य शासकीय विभाग में पंजीकृत ठेकेदार/फर्मों से ई-निविदायें निधारित निविदा प्रपत्र पर जिसमें निविदा सम्बन्धी शर्तों का उल्लेख होगा, चौ चरण सिंह विश्वविद्यालय, मेरठ की ओर से आमन्त्रित की जाती है। निविदाओं से सम्बन्धी सभी जानकारी वेबसाइट www.etender.up.nic.in एवं विश्वविद्यालय की वेबसाइट ccsuniversity.ac.in पर उपलब्ध है।

वित्त अधिकारी

Opp urges Govt to withdraw farm laws, talk to farmers



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Opposition on Wednesday urged the Government to withdraw the farm laws and reach out to the farmers now agitating on the borders of the national Capital. Though they condemned the incidents at the Red Fort on January 26, they, however, cautioned the Government against targeting the innocent farmers.

Calling for the repeal of the laws, some members including Leader of Opposition Ghulam Nabi Azad also said even the British had to take back three bills in early 1900s in the face of strong protest in Punjab and Champaran. He also suggested that repealing the present laws should be announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

These views came out strongly during the first day of the debate in the Rajya Sabha on the motion of thanks to the President's address. The House agreed to discuss the farmers' issue during the 15-hour dis-

ussion in the next two days and the Question Hour will remain suspended for the debate.

While the discussion on Wednesday took place in an orderly manner, the beginning was marred by protest and sloganeering by three Aam Adami Party (AAP) members. They rushed into the well of the house forcing Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu to order them to leave the proceedings for the rest of the day. The members included Sanjay Singh, Sushil Gupta and N D Gupta.

In his speech, Azad urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was present during his presentation, to repeal the three farm laws, voicing the united stand of the opposition during a debate on the contentious laws.

Stressing the point that the slogan 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' was as relevant now as when it was coined by then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, Azad said every Indian is indebted to the farmer com-

Govt accuses Opp of going back on agreement on vote of thanks

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Lok Sabha witnessed repeat adjournments on Wednesday following a slogan-shouting Opposition demanding a rollback of the farm laws, the Government accused the Opposition of going back on the agreement that the vote of thanks on the President's address will be taken first in the house.

For the second consecutive day, the House was first adjourned till 4.30 pm and then till 5 pm during question hour and thereafter until 7 pm. Soon after the house began its proceedings, opposition members started shouting "take back black laws" and refused to take their seats as requested by the Speaker Om Birla.

Congress leader of the house Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said "let us discuss farm laws...image of the coun-

try is being affected internationally".

The house was adjourned till 4.30 when it resumed Chowdhury again sought separate discussion on President's address and farmers issue.

The Speaker said discussions have taken place with leaders of all parties and he will give opportunity to all to speak provided members resume their seats.

Opposition members on their feet, however, continued to shout slogans.

AAP member Bhagwant Mann was among opposition leaders who continued to protest. The Speaker asked him not to cause disruption and cautioned that he will be forced to take action against him.

At this stage Birla said he has followed all adjourned motions which have been moved by the opposition and adjourned the house till five pm.

When the house resumed for Zero hour, bedlam continued and the proceedings were again derailed.

At this stage Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi accused the opposition of "going back on its word of taking up President's address first and then that of the farmers".

The Minister said "same demand was there in Ranya Sabha and we agreed for a discussion, 15 hours decided".

Joshi said a similar arrangement was discussed with leaders in the Lok Sabha and "agreement was that discussion on President's address will be taken first".

The Minister alleged that the opposition changed its mind after reaching an agreement for allowing discussion in the house. "We agreed then but now you decide otherwise", he said. The Speaker, soon after, adjourned the house.

Recording proceedings on phones contempt of House, V-P warns MPs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu on Wednesday warned MPs against recording proceedings of the House on mobile phones, saying such unauthorised recordings and its circulation on social media may be a breach of Parliamentary privilege and contempt of the House.

Some opposition MPs had on Tuesday used their cell phones to record the disruption in proceedings over farm bills. These videos were shared on

social media and aired on television channels.

When the House met for the day, Naidu said Parliamentary rules restrict "usage of cellular phones within Rajya Sabha chambers".

"It is observed that some members are using their mobile phones to record the proceedings of the House while sitting in the Chamber. Such conduct is against Parliamentary etiquettes and is not expected from members," Naidu said without naming anyone.

MPs, he said, should desist from such "unwarranted activ-

ities inside the Chamber".

"Such unauthorised recording of proceedings of the House and its circulation on social media may lead to a breach of privilege and contempt of the House," he said.

Naidu said sections of the media, who started using the clips, are advised not to do so as "it is not authorised" and they could be "liable for consequences thereon".

"Members are, therefore, advised to be careful in this regard. I only hope that everybody will follow rules and regulations," Naidu added.

confronting them. Instead, the Government should focus on other important issues, including on revival of the economy. Tiruchi Siva (DMK) sought assurance from the government and the prime minister on the repeal of the three contentious laws that have led to protests at border points of the national capital and several parts of the country. He also expressed concern over the manner in which the farm bills were passed last year, but Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu said everything was done according to rule.

Criticising the

Government for giving a free hand to the corporates through the new laws, Ram Gopal Yadav (Samajwadi Party) said the barricading of the protest sites around Delhi suggested that the government will attack the capital. Asking the Government not to treat the farmers as enemies, he said such barricading was not even there at the India-Pakistan border. He claimed the government has become "merciless and cruel" as it is not even being affected by the death of some farmers during the ongoing agitation.

Elamaram Kareem (CPM)

said these laws were enacted "without proper consideration or taking into confidence the opposition parties".

Defending the laws, Vijay Pal Tomar (BJP) said the new laws will finish the role of the middlemen who rake in most profits and harming the interests of the farmers and consumers.

RN Singh (JD-U) was of the view that the laws will go a long way in improving the lot of the farmers and cited the example of farmers of Bihar. They were now selling their produce in places like Kolkata and Ranchi and earning good profit, he said.

Centre not holding any informal talks with protesting farmers, says Tomar



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Wednesday said the Centre is not holding any informal talks with protesting farmers and described putting up of more barricades and suspending internet in and around agitation sites as law and order issues related to local administrations.

The last and 11th round of meeting between the Government and 41 protesting unions, held on January 22, was inconclusive. The Centre had asked unions to reconsider the government's proposal to suspend new farm laws for 18 months. Asked when the government will hold the next round of talks and if it was engaging with the unions informally, Tomar replied in the negative.

"No. We will inform when formal talks will be held," Tomar said.

The last and 11th round of meeting between the Government and 41 protesting unions, held on January 22, was inconclusive

When told that protesting unions demand that no formal talks with the Government can be held until the police and the administration stop "harassing" them and release the detained farmers, the minister said, "They should talk to the Police Commissioner. I don't want to comment on the law and order issue. That's not my job".

Since the January 22 talks, there has been no meeting between the farmer leaders and the Centre to discuss the farm laws although the Government reiterated that its offer stands and doors are open for discussion.

On Tuesday, Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) — the umbrella body of farmers' unions protesting the Central farm laws — had said that there can be no "formal" talks with the Government until the "harassment" of different kinds against the farmers' movement by the police and administration is "immediately stopped".

Cong raises ₹139 cr through donations and contributions in excess of ₹20,000

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

The Congress has raised just ₹139 crore through donations and contributions in excess of ₹20,000 while Nagaland's Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party and Mayawati's Bahujan Samaj Party received 'NIL' contributions in excess of ₹20,000 in 2019-20. In power now in Maharashtra, the Nationalist Congress Party's contribution soared to ₹59.95 crore, almost five times more than the Rs 12.05-crore donations it received in 2018-19.

According to the information uploaded on the Election Commission website, the Congress has received ₹139, 016, 2000 from 352 donors in excess of ₹20,000 in 2019-20. Prudent Electoral Trust, ITC Ltd, New Democratic Electoral Trust, BG Shirke Construction, Muthoot Finance, Gayatri Projects, RSWM Ltd, HEG Ltd, Russell Credit Limited, Avon Cycles Ltd, Samaj Electoral Trust Association, New Democratic Electoral Trust and Rajasthan Liquors Limited were among the main major donors to Congress for the year 2019-20. Prudent Electoral Trust and Jankalyan



Electoral Trust donated ₹25 crore each, followed by ITC Ltd ₹17.85 crore and New Democratic Electoral Trust ₹10 crore. The Congress got ₹148.5 crore as donations in excess of ₹20,000 in 2018-19.

The Election Commission is yet to receive the contribution reports of other national parties — BJP, CPI, CPM, Trinamool Congress — in view of extension in the deadline for filing Income-Tax returns for 2019-20.

Among the major donors to NCP, which is part of the coalition in Maharashtra, were B G Shirke Construction Technology Pvt Ltd (₹25 crore), Panchshil Corporate Park Pvt Ltd (₹7.5 crore), Covid-19 vaccine maker Serum Institute of India (SII) (₹3 crore) and Finolex Industries Ltd (₹1.25 crore). Only one electoral trust — Harmony Electoral Trust — contributed to NCP, the

amount being 1.5 crore.

Among the regional parties whose annual contributions for Financial Year 2019-20 are now uploaded on EC website, AIADMK had put its donations above Rs 20,000 at a total value of ₹52.17 crore. This includes ₹46.78 crore (94% of total contributions received by the party) donated to Tamil Nadu's ruling party by Tata Group-controlled Progressive Electoral Trust. Its local rival, DMK, has declared total contributions worth 48.31 crore, of which ₹45.5 crore or 93% has come from electoral bonds, a funding mode that continues to be questioned by many citing lack of transparency.

JD(U) in its contribution report for 2019-20, has declared total donations in excess of ₹20,000 at ₹6.08 crore of which ₹1.25 crore (20%) came from Samaj Electoral Trust.

1,650 artisan families in Murshidabad embrace khadi for self-sustainability

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In poll-bound West Bengal, last Saturday as many as 1,650 artisan families in Murshidabad took a stride towards self-sustainability by embracing various self-employment schemes of khadi.

KVIC Chairman VK Saxena distributed 825 new model charkhas, 50 silk charkhas, 235 modern looms, 120 Reeling Basins and 95 readymade garment machines to artisans engaged with Khadi spinning and weaving activities. The KVIC Chairman also distributed 80 electric potter wheels and other equipment to marginalised potters in Murshidabad under the flagship Kumhar Sashaktikaran Yojana of KVIC.

Distribution of charkha, looms and sewing machines aims at strengthening the local Cotton and Silk industry in Murshidabad which has a glorious history of producing exquisite fabric like Muslin Cotton and Mulberry and Tussar Silk. The KVIC has disbursed Rs 20 crore to strengthen 23 Khadi Institutions engaged with production of khadi in



Murshidabad.

The development came a day after the KVIC's massive employment drive in Malda where 2250 beneficiaries were distributed advanced tools. The employment activities rolled out in West Bengal will boost the Hon'ble Prime minister's call for "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" and "Vocal for Local".

Distribution of electric potter wheels also aims at empowering the potters' community and reviving the dying art of pottery. The potters have been distributed equipment after successfully completing 15-days of training.

The KVIC Chairman said empowering 1650 rural artisan families on the Martyr's Day on January 30 was the biggest trib-

ute to the Father of the Nation as this would go on to strengthen Indian villages. "Gandhi ji was the embodiment of Khadi. For him Khadi was not just fabric but a tool of self-sustainability. Rural resurgence through Khadi was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is striving to fulfill that dream. There could not be a better way to pay tribute to Gandhi ji than empowering 1650 rural artisans on the Martyr's Day," Saxena said.

He said providing jobs to every hand is the vision of the Prime Minister and in the last 5 years, KVIC has spent more than ₹200 crore to strengthen Khadi institutions and artisans in West Bengal.

PwDs got raw deal in Budget: NGOs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Disability rights NGOs and activists from the sector have claimed that differently-abled people have been "neglected" in the Budget 2021-22 unveiled on Monday as the allocation has been cut down. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman also did not care to mention the disabled people even once in her speech, they said.

Other than exempting senior citizens above 75 from filing ITR and easier dividend payout, the Budget has no specific mention of inclusion and schemes for persons with disabilities (PwDs), they rued.

Arman Ali, the executive director of the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP), said the Budget document talks about it being dependent on six pillars, one of them being inclusive development for aspirational India, but PwDs have once again been "neglected".

"Year after year, disability sector sends its asks to the Government but this time these asks were not even mentioned. This budget was of utmost importance due to the ongoing pandemic as people have lost jobs and children have dropped out of schools because of the lack of facilities," he said. Ali said the Atma Nirbhar



Swasthya Bharat Scheme, which is the highlight of this budget, focuses on strengthening primary and secondary healthcare centres but has no word on PwDs.

"However, we hope that all disabled people are included under the announced health schemes."

The allocation for the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DePwD) has been reduced to Rs 1,171.76 crore from Rs 1,325.39 crore, Ali said.

National Platform for the Rights of the Disabled, in a statement, said fund reduction in the budget will adversely impact various schemes and programmes that are being undertaken by the department.

Dr. Satendra Singh from Doctors with Disabilities: Agents of Change added that despite Covid-19 creating a demand for mental health services, the National Institute of Mental Health Rehabilitation did not receive any budgetary

allocations were seen for the ADIP scheme, DDRS & National Trust. No disaggregated data

either for persons with disabilities, said the Dr from Delhi based GTB Hospital.

M/s Avancer Properties Pvt. Ltd.
Site Office: M2K Swastik, Sector 1, Dharuhera, Ph.: 9818199908
www.m2kindia.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas, we M/s Avancer Properties Pvt. Ltd. is in the process of undertaking of development of an Affordable Plotted Colony under DDJAY-2016 in Sector 1, Dharuhera over an area measuring 7.606 Acres in the revenue estate of Dharuhera in accordance with the provision of License no. 105 of 2017 dated 19.12.2017 granted by Director, Town & Country Planning, Haryana, Chandigarh (DTCP).

And whereas, several individuals have made bookings/entered into purchase agreement for allotment of plot/property in the said colony (hereinafter referred as allottees).

And whereas, the Layout Cum Demarcation Plan earlier approved on 06.03.2019 for the said colony is now proposed to be revised.

And whereas, as per the Govt. order dated 25.01.2021 issued by the Town & Country Planning Department, Haryana, Chandigarh, DTCP has required seeking of objection against the revision of Layout Cum Demarcation Plan, as a pre-condition for allowing such revision in the Layout Cum Demarcation Plan.

Accordingly, vide this public notice objections are hereby invited from any of the allottees in the said colony on the proposed revision of the Layout Cum Demarcation Plan of the said colony. A copy of the earlier approved layout plan bearing no. DG, TCP-6890 dated 06.03.2019 & the layout cum demarcation plan now proposed to be revised bearing no. 5651 dated 19.01.2021 is available for perusal on our website www.m2kindia.com. The said layout plan can also be perused at the site office of undersigned at Sector-1, Dharuhera as well as in the office of Senior Town Planner, Circle Office Gurugram.

Any allottee having any objection on revised layout cum demarcation plan, may file his objection in the office of Senior Town Planner, Circle Office Gurugram within 30 days of the publication of this notice, failing which it shall be assumed that there are no objections to the proposed revision in the layout cum demarcation plan.

Place: Dharuhera Vikash Agarwal, Authorised Signatory
Date: 04.02.2021 For M/s Avancer Properties Pvt. Ltd.

INCREASE IN THE FREQUENCY OF RAJDHANI SPECIAL TRAIN

For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to increase the frequency of Train No. 02503/02504 Dibrugarh - New Delhi - Dibrugarh Rajdhani Special Train from weekly to 5 days in a week as per details given below:-

Train No.	From	To	Existing Frequency/Day	Additional days of run	Revised Frequency w.e.f.
02503	Dibrugarh	New Delhi	Ex Dibrugarh on Thursday	Ex Dibrugarh on Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Saturday	Ex - Dibrugarh on 16-02-2021 (Tuesday)
02504	New Delhi	Dibrugarh	Ex New Delhi on Tuesday	Ex New Delhi on Monday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday	Ex - New Delhi on 19-02-2021 (Friday)

In view of the increase in frequency of above Rajdhani special, the timings of 01666 Agartala - Habibganj special (weekly) will also change. Revised timings will effect from 20.02.2021

EXTENSION OF FESTIVAL SPECIAL TRAINS

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of following Festival Special Trains as under:-

Train No.	From	To	Frequency/Day	Extended Period / Dates
02107	Lokmanya Tilak Terminus	Lucknow Jn.	Tri-Weekly (Mon, Wed & Sat)	06.02.2021 to 31.03.2021
02108	Lucknow Jn.	Lokmanya Tilak Terminus	Tri-Weekly (Tue, Thu & Sun)	07.02.2021 to 01.04.2021

Note: All norms of the State and Central Government regarding COVID-19 including Social distancing, sanitization etc., may be followed in the trains and at the Railway stations. All other precautions associated with COVID-19 should also be ensured.

For any kind of Information such as detailed Time-Table and Stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

Visit RailMadad website:- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in Download RailMadad app.

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PAPER WITH PASSION

The Wuhan mystery

The WHO inspectors are visiting the secretive lab. Will they be able to find all the answers?

All eyes are on the team of World Health Organisation (WHO) investigators who are in China right now to inspect the research centre in Wuhan that has been the subject of speculation about the origin of the Coronavirus pandemic that was unleashed upon the world in 2019, destroying global economies and killing lakhs of people. The team's visit to the Wuhan Institute of Virology, which conducts research on the world's most dangerous diseases, is meant for gathering data and searching for clues as to where the virus originated, how it jumped from animals to humans and how the pandemic spread. One of China's top virus research labs, the institute built an archive of genetic information about bat Coronaviruses after the 2003 outbreak of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. That led to allegations that it may have a link to the original outbreak of COVID-19 in Wuhan. However, this trip seems more like an exercise in futility as one wonders what the experts can find after more than a year since the outbreak of the worst pandemic in living memory. Plus, China, which has been subjected to global finger-pointing, accusations and isolation on the world stage amid sanction and lawsuit threats, has fought tooth and nail against allowing any global body into its highly guarded and secretive lab. The team also went to the market where one of the first reported clusters of infection had emerged. This is being considered a "critical" stop, as mankind struggles to get some definitive answers about the contagion.

Given that the media have been kept at bay from all the proceedings, how genuine the information coming out of Wuhan will be is anybody's guess. However, one can only hope that the WHO — which in the initial stages had been accused of colluding with Beijing to brush the news of the contagion under the carpet and being "partial" to China because of the major funding from there — will perform its duty with due diligence and integrity. Having been able to wipe the blot with a lot of difficulty, the WHO must ensure against accusations of being partisan or, worse, corrupt. On its part, Beijing would like to forget the past year and is determined to put the focus back on its recovery, if the WHO team's tour of a propaganda exhibition celebrating China's recovery in Wuhan is anything to go by. Though Beijing had to bear global outrage, hatred, economic repercussions and conspiracy theories after the outbreak, it maintained its "innocence". One wonders why it took so long for the country to allow global experts into the notorious Wuhan lab if it was indeed innocent. In fact, if it had nothing to hide, China should have voluntarily opened its doors to allow the inspectors in. However, whether it will turn out to be a fruitful exercise or "Mission Impossible" only time will tell.

PICTALK



The Indian Air Force's aerobatics team, Sarang, flies past the Yelahanka air base during the 13th Aero India show. PTI

Floodgates shut

Having plucked several leaders in Bengal, the BJP is suddenly and curiously concerned about a clean image

After seeking to make an impressive dent in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly by aggressively poaching a number of leaders belonging to the rival parties ahead of the State elections, the BJP has suddenly turned coy. Without assigning any cogent reason for the development, it has abruptly announced that it would henceforth not induct members of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) en masse. Though the officially assigned reason is that the BJP does "not want to become the B-team" of the ruling party and is sceptical of the new joiners having a tarnished image, there is ground to believe that the actualities are more deep-rooted. The BJP has certainly gained strength in the State; the proof is in the pudding: It has inducted since the 2019 Lok Sabha elections 18 MLAs and an MP belonging to the TMC, three MLAs each of the CPI(M) and the Congress and an MLA from the CPI. However, the new arrivals and the importance given to them have caused significant resentment and heartburn among the old guard and caused a divide in the saffron party.

Be that as it may, the development must have allowed the TMC — which was being squeezed in from several quarters in the State's electoral arena — to have a huge sigh of relief. It is a matter of record that the Mamata Banerjee-led unit has of late been a worried party; virtually in the throes of a crisis after successive desertions by senior office-bearers and influential community leaders. Another of her challenges in the forthcoming elections comes from AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi, who is hoping to find favour with influential Muslim cleric Abbas Siddiqui, the 'Peerzada' of Furfura Sharif — a much-revered shrine in Bengal's Hooghly district. Bengal's Muslim population stood at 27.01 per cent in the 2011 census and is projected to have increased to around 30 per cent now. The community's population is substantially high in at least nine districts of the State but several clerics and imams close to the ruling dispensation discount the idea that Owaisi & Co will be acceptable to Bengal's voters. It is in this respect that Mamata's party is growing closer to the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), whose leader Lalu Prasad she shares cordial relations with, with the apparent aim of letting that party contest a few constituencies on the inter-State border that have a sizeable number of Hindi-speaking voters.

The curse of 'Made in China'

The country is ranked 49th in the 'Made-in-Country Index' of 50 nations and even the efficacy of its anti-COVID vaccines is being contested

The country of origin for the manufacture of a brand or the rendering of a service is of deep significance for the end consumer. In today's globalised and inter-connected world where the same brands are made across the globe, it is not uncommon to see the selective dialling up of the country of origin to insist on product superiority, for example "Swiss-made" in watches or "Made in Japan" for electronics. There is an automatic, subliminal and unsaid correlation that develops amid a brand's image, country image, quality perception and promised experience. Global research company Statista has developed a "Made-in-Country Index" to ascertain the value of sovereign labels in terms of connotations of value, efficacy and trust. Respondents ranked 50 major countries and, expectedly, the overall score of "Made in Germany" topped the perception index whereas "Made in China" lagged at the 49th place ("Made in India" was at 42).

Despite flooding global markets with the cheapest products that are churned out of hyper factories, that are State-supported with subsidised wherewithal as also controlled labour market — the parameter of affordability notwithstanding, the quality of "Made in China" is perennially suspect. This wariness of the sovereign tag extends to the global vaccine rush where the "Made in China" offerings of Sinovac and Sinopharm (CanSino Biologics and Anhui Zhifei) are also being developed in China) compete with others. The public hesitation notwithstanding, the ever-opportunistic Chinese have upped the ante on vaccine diplomacy to make the most of a desperate situation, to bank commercial and diplomatic wins. The cash-rich Chinese have already pledged "friendly" loans of \$2 billion to Africa and up to \$1 billion to the Latin/Caribbean countries to buy the Chinese vaccines — which, interestingly and contrary to the usual "Made in China" narrative, are not the cheapest vaccines in the global market. The move reeks of yet another patented 'debt trap' that Beijing routinely deploys



to ensnare cash-strapped and desperate countries.

The Chinese order book for the vaccines has client countries that will source its wares owing to geopolitical stakes, such as Pakistan, Turkey, Indonesia and Philippines; some others like the United Arab Emirates, Singapore and Brazil have shown interest. Pursuant to the "all-weather friendship", Pakistan became the first foreign recipient of the vaccines. Similarly, the mercurial quasi-dictator of Hungary, Viktor Orban, sent a loaded message to the pro-democracy West when he became the sole European Union country to renege faith in Chinese vaccines. Though, like most offerings from China, the manufacturing processes, test findings and efficacy rates remain mired in hotly contested discrepancies. Brazil had initially reported a still-reasonable figure of 78 per cent effectiveness in clinical trials though, subsequently and embarrassingly for the Chinese, the nation revised it to 50.4 per cent after supposedly reworking the base data. Such damning revelations will willy-nilly lead to some heartburn in countries that had pre-ordered these vaccines.

However, it is the conundrum in Pakistan which exemplifies the queasy situation



PUBLIC HESITATION NOTWITHSTANDING, THE EVER-OPPORTUNISTIC CHINESE HAVE UPPED THE ANTE ON VACCINE DIPLOMACY TO MAKE THE MOST OF A DESPERATE SITUATION, TO BANK THEIR COMMERCIAL AND DIPLOMATIC WINS

vis-à-vis the Chinese vaccines. Recently the Special Assistant to the Pakistan Prime Minister on Health, Dr Faisal Sultan, announced that besides the "gift" of half a million Chinese vaccines, Pakistan had secured nearly seven million doses of AstraZeneca, adding sheepishly: "Though AstraZeneca is being prepared in India, it will come through Covax, an international alliance." The fact that the Pakistanis have not yet ordered the full quantity of the planned purchase, and are actively scouting for alternative sources even though the Chinese could service the total requirement, suggests inherent issues with "Made in China". Brazil's incorrigible President Jair Bolsonaro taunted the Chinese vaccine: "Is that 50 per cent good?" The other pre-booked procurers of the Chinese vaccines in Singapore, Indonesia and Philippines are having a difficult time selling it to its unsure citizenry.

The saga of "Made in China" has played out through the pandemic with the Chinese authorities coming in for an initial rap for having downplayed its consequences (besides former US President Donald Trump's insistence on the "Chinese virus"); thereafter the shoddy quality of Chinese-sup-

plied Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) across the globe made unsavoury headlines for the Chinese. Now the vaccines' questionable efficacy points towards fears of quality when it comes to "Made in China". For a global industrial powerhouse, Huawei is the only Chinese brand to make it to the "Best Global Brands 2020" list — and this brand too has run into serious concerns of having dangerous backdoors in its technology! The US is pressuring its allies to desist from Huawei as it fears the possible misuse of the platform, another speciality that accompanies "Made in China". These diminishing perceptions will impact the ambitious industrial plan introduced in 2015, "Made in China 2025", that seeks to assert China's dominance in the global manufacturing value chain (biopharma and high-tech medical devices were identified among the focus 10 sectors). The recent pandemic has yet again exposed the yawning gap between Chinese claims on technology and the actual delivery, with the curse of "Made in China" only worsening.

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



BHOPINDER SINGH

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FIND AN AMICABLE SOLUTION

Sir — This refers to the editorial 'Stranglehold?' (February 3). After the unacceptable violence and vandalism on Republic Day, the majority of protesters were demoralised. But the efforts by the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government to clear the Ghazipur border last week, and farm leader Rakesh Tikait's passionate appeal to continue the protest, changed the situation on the ground. It led to a revival of the protest's momentum which was almost lost.

It has now created a real political challenge for the Government. As long as it was largely confined to the farmers of Punjab and Haryana, the Government's political calculus was that this would not lead to a major electoral backlash against the BJP in its strongholds. But the developments in western UP changed the scenario. With State elections a year away, the party is worried about alienating this large demography in a crucial State.

But no side should think it has the upper hand in this constantly shifting dynamic. It would be best for farm groups to take the Government's offer of an 18-month suspension of the laws and join a consultative exercise to come up with a revised framework. The R-Day violence and Ghazipur developments are neither good for the State nor for the protesters.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

MILITARY RULE IS NOT ALIEN TO BURMA

Sir — This refers to the editorial 'Democracy's dilemma' (February 3). Ironically, military rule is not alien to Myanmar, given that the run of democracy in Burma has been short-lived and that, prior to the establishment of democracy in erstwhile Burma in 2011, the Burmese had already undergone the hardships of a long spell of military regime. Hence, the overthrow of the Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi-led Government in Myanmar in the wee hours of Monday does not pass for a surprise, particularly when two of the world's most powerful democracies — the US and India — have also had body blows not-in-the-too-distant past,

'Aatmanirbharta' does India proud



It's really delightful to know that the word 'Aatmanirbharta' has been chosen and declared as the Hindi word of the year 2020 by an advisory panel of Oxford Languages, which publishes the Oxford English Dictionary. The word, which means self-reliance, came into prominence after Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave a call for 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)' — an important initiative in the backdrop of the Novel

from the Capitol Hill and the Red Fort incidents, respectively.

However, this bodes well that US President Joe Biden has, while threatening Myanmar with the re-imposition of sanctions, called for a concerted international response — perhaps in a futile bid to prevail upon the military leaders to step down and in turn put back on rails the democracy in Myanmar. The editorial view, that India needs to tread with caution given that the military leadership of Myanmar may join hands with Beijing for support in the UN Security Council which is expected to take up resolutions for the restoration of the democratic process and peace in the region, holds good and merits serious deliberation.

Azhar A Khan | Rampur

MAINTAIN DIGNITY OF THE HOUSE

Sir — It is a matter of grave concern that Rajya Sabha Chairperson M Venkaiah Naidu has warned members against using mobile phones within the House.

Coronavirus pandemic. It gave the much-needed hope, encouragement and motivation to the nation in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

'Aatmanirbharta' found resonance with a wide cross-section of people as it is seen as an answer for the revival of a COVID-impacted economy. The word stands for the day-to-day achievements of the countless Indians who dealt with and survived the perils of the pandemic. It reflects the PM's vision of new India aimed at making the nation strong, self-reliant and a big global economy. It is also an encouragement to the youth, inspiring them to launch start-ups and become entrepreneurs rather than job seekers. The nation surged ahead during the crisis and the achievements of our nation in healthcare, manufacturing of health gear, building healthcare infrastructure and its great contribution in the manufacturing of vaccines clearly show that 'aatmanirbharta' worked as a mantra in the mind of each and every Indian.

M Pradyu | Kamur

He mentioned that there is a restriction on the use of cellular phones within the Rajya Sabha's chambers. It has been noticed that some members use their mobile phones to record proceedings of the House while sitting in the chambers and such conduct is against parliamentary etiquette.

The session of the House is held for a short time and incurs an expenditure of crores of rupees on the public exchequer. In the past also, many of our representatives have acted irresponsibly. Some members of a Legislative Assembly were spotted even watching porn clips during a session. We have also seen MPs and MLAs breaking the microphones and throwing chairs at each other. Parliament or the State Assemblies are the temples of democracy and those who are their members must maintain their dignity.

Amit Singh Kushwaha | Satna

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUND BITE

We have taken many steps to strengthen our security apparatus. India plans to spend 130 billion dollars on military modernisation in the next seven-eight years.



Defence Minister — Rajnath Singh

Pakistan is a peace-loving country that had rendered great sacrifices for regional and global peace. Pakistan and India should resolve the Jammu and Kashmir issue in a dignified manner.

Pakistan Army chief — General Qamar Javed Bajwa

As an actor, we didn't know what was going to happen in the next one year. I feel I started loving my profession all over again during lockdown because I have started giving value to things.

Actor — Ali Asgar

It is a good opportunity for a young captain when the full squad is available. Shakib's batting and bowling are going to help me lead the side with a better combination.

Bangladesh cricketer — Mominul Haque

Few hookah bars operate as part of restaurants while some are standalone in cities. Youngsters through these places. We are seriously thinking of banning hookah bars.

Karnataka Home Minister — Basavaraj Bommai



FIRST COLUMN

BUDGET DOES NOT ADDRESS KEY ISSUE

For India to prosper, we must raise the purchasing power of the masses. This has not been dealt with



MARKANDEY KATJU

The Union Budget is disappointing, directionless and unrealistic, even though the Government claims that it will make India "atmanirbhar (self-reliant)." It lays emphasis on healthcare, building some highways and Metros (especially in States where elections will be held shortly) and disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings. But what will all these measures accomplish if people don't have jobs, money and food? The ongoing farmers' agitation reveals the terrible crisis in the agricultural sector of our economy. Thousands of farmers committed suicide because they were not getting adequate remuneration for their produce and were deep in debt. In almost all countries agriculture is subsidised — even in the most advanced and prosperous country like the US. One can survive without a car, a TV set, air conditioner or other industrial products but food, like air and water, is essential for life. Hence, agriculture is very different from other industries as people's survival depends on it. Cultivation has to be done and since modern farming cannot be done without subsidy, the State must ensure that farmers get an adequate remuneration for their produce. For this, the Minimum Support Price (MSP) must be given to all farmers (not just a select few), but this has not been addressed either by the three laws against which the farmers are agitating, nor in the Union Budget.



In recent months, the Indian economy has tanked, with a sharp downturn in both manufacturing and sales. The automobile industry, the real estate sector and so on, are in the dumps. Massive lay-offs have taken place even as unemployment has reached record heights.

What, then, is the real way out of this economic crisis? The way out is not only giving MSP to farmers but also rapid industrialisation of the country, as that alone can create the millions of jobs needed to wipe out unemployment and generate the wealth required for the welfare of the people. However, there is a basic hurdle to rapid industrialisation: While there is no difficulty in increasing production, the goods will not be sold because the people have little purchasing power.

India today is not the India of 1947. At that time we had few industries and few engineers because the policy of the British was broadly to keep us feudal and unindustrialised. After Independence, however, there was a limited degree of industrialisation and today we have thousands of engineers, technicians and scientists alongside immense natural resources. With these, we can easily step up production.

The problem, however, is not how to increase production but how to raise the purchasing power of the masses. In 1914, Henry Ford raised the wages of his workers from \$2.25 to \$5 per day. That was done to stabilise his workforce, but it did raise the purchasing power of the masses as other US manufacturers were compelled to do the same. In the Soviet Union, the Government fixed the prices of all commodities and every two years or so lowered them by 5-10 per cent, and sometimes wages were also increased by 5-10 per cent. Even with the same wage, the worker could now buy more goods, as prices were reduced regularly. This way, the purchasing power of the Russian masses was increased by State action. Simultaneously, production was also stepped up and more goods could be sold as people had more purchasing power. This process went on steadily after 1928, resulting in the rapid expansion of the Soviet economy and the creation of millions of jobs, wiping out unemployment. I am not saying we must adopt the Soviet model, but for India to prosper we must raise the purchasing power of the masses. This has not been seriously addressed in the Budget.

(The writer is a former judge of the Supreme Court of India. The views expressed are personal.)

Peace a distant dream unless we change

India's strategic response to Beijing has to be two-pronged if we desire lasting peace. We need a strong military and a political will to be proactive to exploit Chinese vulnerabilities



ANIL GUPTA

Despite the ongoing talks to resolve the military impasse in Eastern Ladakh, incursions and aggressiveness by China continue on the borders. Close on the heels of the revelation of construction of a village in the disputed territory in the Upper Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh came the news of Chinese incursion in Naku La in North Sikkim. Consequently, relations between the two nations are deteriorating by the day, with chances of a confrontation on the border likely once the snow melts. India needs to prepare herself militarily, politically and diplomatically to halt Chinese expansionism, a product of its "Middle Kingdom Complex" that is being pursued vigorously by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) under the garb of the "China Dream" of its paramount leader Xi Jinping.

Ever since the emergence of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Indian leadership beginning with Pandit Nehru desired to have friendly ties with Beijing in the hope that it would contribute towards world peace, oppose colonialism and form the pillars of a Pan-Asian order. India was among the first few nations to establish diplomatic ties with the PRC on April 1, 1950. Nehru had introduced China for the first time in the global arena during the first-ever multinational Afro-Asian Conference at Bandung in 1955. India was instrumental in getting China the permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Unfortunately, Nehru failed to read Chairman Mao's mind which was filled with Sinocentrism and Chinese nationalism focused on a modern powerful Chinese nation. Mao's ideology manifested itself in the form of China emerging on the world scene as a "Revisionist" power aiming to change the existing *status quo*. It resulted in annexation of Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang and Tibet. Subsequently, India also became a victim of Chinese expansionism.

Chinese greed showed no signs of subsiding. Apart from its adventurism in the South and East China Seas, it has been steadily extending its claim lines across Ladakh to include Indian territories, while repudiating India's sovereignty over Arunachal. Of late, it has included Sikkim also in its growing lists of disputes with India.

New Delhi has decided to contest Chinese revisionism and expansionism. It has refused to give in to Xi's machinations, for which it has received considerable global support. India needs to strategise to exploit China's many vulnerabilities. The CCP is, however, very sensitive to the two "Ts" namely Taiwan and Tibet. As a consequence of civil war in China, the nation was divided into two parts in 1949 two years after India attained Independence. Mao's communist Government retained control of mainland China forcing the Republic of China (ROC) Government to relocate to Taiwan. Since then, the ROC has continued to exercise effective jurisdiction over the main island of Taiwan and a number of outlying islands while the PRC continues to claim it as its 23rd province.

China's official position on Taiwan is uncompromising. It claims that Taiwan is, was and always has been an inseparable part of China, and that international law supports Beijing's claim. The CCP wants outright reunification, the sooner the better, seeing the recovery of the island as the final chapter in the civil war and end of past humiliations when China was forced to cede territory to foreigners.



WHILE TAIWAN AND TIBET SHOULD FORM TWO MAIN PILLARS OF INDIA'S STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO THE DRAGON'S TREACHERY, XINJIANG, HONG KONG AND INNER MONGOLIA SHOULD ALSO REMAIN ON ITS RADAR. TIBET AND XINJIANG ARE CHINA'S TWO LARGEST PROVINCES. WITHOUT THEM, THE TOTAL LAND AREA OF CHINA WOULD BE REDUCED BY OVER 30 PER CENT

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



On the other hand, there is a growing global support for Taiwan as it is viewed as a victim of growing Chinese expansionism that wants to impose the communist ideology on a democratic nation.

The other Achilles heel of CCP is Tibet, the region that shares border with India and has had historic ties with India. With the end of the Chinese Civil War, the newly-established communist regime openly stated its intention of "liberating" Tibet, but India paid no heed.

To maintain control over Tibet, the PLA entered Tibet on October 7, 1950, and subsequently annexed it, thus eliminating the traditional buffer between India and China. India committed a big folly in 1954 when, under the Panchsheel Agreement, we surrendered in Tibet all our military and other facilities to China. Chinese responded with attacking an Assam Rifles outpost in Longju in the Central Frontier of erstwhile North East Frontier Agency (now Arunachal) and building a road through Indian territory of Aksai Chin in Ladakh. Nehru still did not realise the gravity of the situation till China backstabbed India in 1962.

Had Tibet not been forcibly annexed by PRC there would have been no boundary dispute on our northern borders.

The PRC on assuming power renounced all earlier foreign agreements as unequal treaties imposed on it during the 'century of humiliation' and demanded renegotiation of all borders.

Chinese obsession with Tibet

stems from many reasons, one of them being to fulfil Mao's revisionist dream of Five Fingers. Mao believes Tibet to be the palm of China's right hand, with Ladakh, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan and Arunachal as its five fingers which also need to be "liberated" contrary to Indian claims.

Tibet is Beijing's fundamental vulnerability *vis-a-vis* India and a mechanism available to the latter to restrain China. New Delhi made the cardinal mistake of accepting the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) as part of China, thus permitting the Dragon to share a border with India. China time and again defied India's hopes of a peaceful co-existence through its acts of treachery by showing scant respect for mutual treaties and international conventions. The time has come to junk the One Nation policy of China by paying it back in the same coin. India needs to derecognise Tibet as part of China and recognise Taiwan as an independent nation. To begin with, India needs to enhance commerce and cultural relations with Taiwan and increase military cooperation.

To ensure Hans supremacy, the CCP has been subjecting the other ethnic minorities to suppression and subjugation. There is growing unrest in Tibet and Xinjiang against increased Chinese atrocities. China also plans to change the demographics along the Sino-Indian border through the establishment of Hans populated villages. To counter this, India should give up its timid Tibet policy, assist the resistance

movement within Tibet and give a free hand to the Dalai Lama and his Government to espouse the cause of freedom from Indian soil. It should also draw global attention to increased human right violations inside Tibet.

In all fairness, the mistake committed by India during the NDA regime under Atal Bihari Vajpayee should be corrected by the Narendra Modi-led NDA before it is too late. India should shed all apprehensions and play its trump card: Tibet, against China.

While Taiwan and Tibet should form two main pillars of India's strategic response to the Dragon's treachery, Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Inner Mongolia should also remain on its radar. Tibet and Xinjiang are China's two largest provinces. Without them, the total land area of China would be reduced by over 30 per cent. India should also invest heavily in improving and maintaining good relations with peripheral nations of SCS as well as the nations in Indo-Pacific region. Strengthening the Quad into an alliance has become a strategic necessity to checkmate Xi's ambition to become the world's most powerful leader. Our strategic response to Beijing has to be two-pronged if we desire lasting peace with China. In keeping with the maxim, "If you want peace, be prepared for war," a strong military to defend ourselves is the foremost change needed, coupled with a political will to be proactive to exploit Chinese vulnerabilities and let Beijing respond to our moves rather than the other way round.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

LOOK AT WHAT IS HAPPENING! WHY AREN'T WE TALKING ABOUT THIS? #FARMERSPROTEST (IN INDIA). —SINGER AND ACTOR RIHANNA



NO ONE IS TALKING ABOUT IT BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT FARMERS. THEY ARE TERRORISTS WHO ARE TRYING TO DIVIDE INDIA. SIT DOWN YOU FOOL. —ACTOR KANGANA RANAUT

Innovation must for survival of NGOs in a post-virus world

The world is going to be a different place for social organisations where getting support is concerned. The need for them to innovate has never been greater

The initial months of the COVID-induced lockdown — when the world was in the grip of the unprecedented health crisis and job losses were massive — witnessed Indians loosening their purse strings quite generously to donate to those who were in need. Be it the PM CARES (Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations) Fund or the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, donations by private individuals in India recorded a significant uptick.

The troubled times brought the nation under one umbrella and redefined the age-old adage "united we stand." The outpouring of aid made it clear that Indians do not lag behind when it comes to reaching out to the less fortunate. India's everyday givers are motivated by four triggers: Convenience, urgency,



ANURADHA PRASAD

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community and impact. Last year, the "urgency" factor largely drove donations.

However, the post COVID-19 world is going to be a different ball game for social purpose organisations (SPOs). Hence, the need for SPOs to innovate in order to ensure that their mission and services are protected, has never been greater. As fundraising is the lifeblood of SPOs, it is imperative for such organisations to understand new-age challenges.

The key concerns for the organisations include public loss of faith in the fundraising sector, highly publicised examples of malpractices, dip in donations by high net-worth individuals or companies due to the pandemic's impact, lower Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) targets in the wake of the global pandemic and an increased demand for transparency from donors, among

others. Diving straight into the measures required to steer clear of the aforementioned issues, here are some ways to keep SPOs flush with funds:

Earn the trust: The erosion of public trust is becoming a worldwide reality and is undermining the ability of social organisations to work in public interest. The causes exacerbating this trust deficit are: Public and private sector corruption, income inequality, lack of civic engagements, volatile media and social media rhetoric, among others. The most fundamental proactive action for institutions and organisations to keep the trust of donors intact is to deliver real value to people. Efficient day-to-day execution of tasks may not be headline-grabbing but it is what ultimately matters the most. The other prerequisites to maintain trust include strengthening accountability and transparency. To



this end, citizens can also be roped in to help in tackling community and societal challenges.

Finding new donors and retaining old ones: Individuals or companies may donate once but getting them to give for charity again is possible only when they are ensured value for their donations. In fact, the idea should be to empower the donors in a way that they also encourage others to follow suit.

Meanwhile, to get new donors into the fold, the cause should be presented in a relatable manner and the work done previously should be highlighted across all platforms. The campaign designed by SPOs should have a universal appeal. Other successful ways to grab the attention of donors are email campaigns, community events, and video campaigns.

Storytelling for fundraising: A social organisation is identified with the cause it works for. If people are not aware of your work, funds may dry sooner than expected. Hence, it is extremely crucial for SPOs to make the masses aware of their initiatives and the relevance of their efforts. For businesses, marketing products or services is *sine qua non* to reach out to customers. For non-profits as well, marketing holds great significance. It's just that the cause of the social organi-

sation becomes the product and the donors take the spot of customers. To tell its story in the simplest way possible and yet make the desired impact, an organisation must have a clear idea as to what differentiates it from other SPOs. Perhaps, including a seasoned content writer in the team or having a journalist as a consultant may help in projecting the cause of the firm in an impactful manner to the people.

Go digital: Reaching out to potential donors isn't economical if a company goes the conventional marketing way. But social media platforms make for the perfect media to penetrate a large group of people while incurring minimal cost. Through digital marketing, NGOs can divert a considerable amount of traffic to their website and build a credible brand image.

The numerous instruments

that digital marketing proffers SPOs are: Creating social profiles, circulating Press releases and newsletters, creating a blog, local directory listings, submitting articles, email marketing and so on. Digital marketing also cuts through geographical constraints. By integrating digital in day-to-day activities, a firm can achieve two goals at the same time — earning public trust and attracting more funds.

When *annus horribilis* bared its fangs, the focus of the world shifted towards surviving and enduring the pandemic. Now, with vaccines being rolled out across the globe, social organisations should again look forward to prevailing and achieving their objectives. Be it the West or a Third World nation, the COVID-19 outbreak has shown us all that a lot needs to be done in the social arena to be prepared for any forthcoming catastrophe.

Ideological bankruptcy in Cong, CPM: Nadda

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

BJP national president JP Nadda said the CPI(M) and the Congress are suffering from the phenomenon of ideological bankruptcy. "That is the reason the CPI(M) and the Congress are fighting the Assembly election together in West Bengal while they are fighting against each other in Kerala," said Nadda while speaking to media at Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. The BJP chief is in Kerala for a two-day visit to take stock of the preparedness of the party for the upcoming Assembly election.

Nadda said the Pinarayi Vijayan-led Kerala Government was violating all norms and attacking Constitutional bodies like the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for highlighting the improprieties committed by various departments of the administration. "The CPI(M)-led government has made three lakh illegal appointments.

The Public Service Commission has become a recruiting ground for the CPI(M). We have never seen such misuse of office by a political party anywhere in the country," said the BJP president. Pinarayi Vijayan has lost all credibility and stands exposed for all to see, he said.

Referring to the scandals that were rocking the Government, Nadda said that corruption was being perpetrated with official patronage. "Even Speaker of the Legislative Assembly P Sreeramakrishnan has become the patron for

acts of corruption," he said.

The BJP president was equally critical of the Congress and its leader Oommen Chandi. "Names of most of the Congress leaders in Kerala figure in the solar scam. The LFD and the UDF are the two sides of the same coin. They are obsessed with corruption. There are no ministers in the State who are not facing any charges of corruption," said Nadda.

He said the Covid-19 management in the State has been a disaster. "Kerala accounts for more than half of the total Covid-19 cases in the country.

The People of Kerala deserve a much better government and the BJP is ready to offer the same. The party has emerged as a principal force in Kerala politics as the recent Local Body elections have shown," he said.

Referring to the Congress move to make the Sabarimala Temple issue an election issue, the BJP chief said it was the height of sheer hypocrisy on the part of the Congress. "When hundreds of Ayyappa devotees were brutally attacked by the police in 2019 the Congress did not utter a single word. Now that the election is here, they want to cheat the Ayyappa devotees by making it an election issue," said the BJP president.

He also scoffed at reports in a section of the media that there was a nexus between the BJP and the CPI(M) to ensure the defeat of the Congress in the assembly election in Kerala.

Modi's brother sits on dharna at Lucknow airport

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Lucknow: Prahlad Modi, the younger brother of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sat on dharna at the Lucknow airport on Wednesday evening, demanding the release of his supporters who have been arrested.

Sitting at the Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport, Prahlad Modi, who is the Vice President of All India Fair Price Shop Dealers' Federation (AIFSPDF), questioned the functioning of Lucknow police and even threatened to go on an indefinite hunger strike if his supporters were not released.

He said that he had come to Lucknow from where he was scheduled to visit Prayagraj, Sultanpur and other districts.

"Is there a law in Uttar Pradesh that prevents people from welcoming someone who has come to their city? I want a copy of that order. Some policemen told me that there were orders from Prime Minister's Office too. I want to see that order as well," he told reporters.

He further said, "Unless I am shown copies of the orders, I will not move from here. I have also decided to proceed on a hunger strike." Senior officials are rushing to the airport to meet Prahlad Modi. IANS

Congress leader accuses CPM of covering up corruption in LIFE Mission

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The Opposition Congress in Kerala came out on Wednesday with yet another charge against the CPI(M)-led Pinarayi Vijayan Government "for cheating the general public of the State with false claims in the number of houses built under the LIFE Mission".

LIFE (Livelihood Inclusion and Financial Empowerment) Mission is the flagship programme of the Left Democratic Government envisaging construction of houses for all residents in Kerala who do not have house or land of their own and to offer help for them to launch enterprises for their livelihood.

But the Mission has run into problems with reports about widespread irregularities and corruption which are being probed by CBI. Though the Kerala Government tried to get the CBI probe stayed by the court, the Kerala High Court gave the green signal to the central agency to go ahead with the investigation. K C Joseph, MLA and deputy leader of the Congress Legislature Party, who have been deputed by the party to take on the Pinarayi Vijayan Government on the LIFE Mission, alleged on Wednesday that the claims of the Kerala Government that they have completed the construction of 2.5 Lakh house has been found to be a lie.

"The claim by the Kerala Government that it has built 2.5 lakh houses is far from reality. If what the Government says is true, then each Panchayat in the State should have 250 houses built under LIFE Mission. My probe proves that there are not even 100 houses in any of the Panchayats," Joseph told The Pioneer. He said though the Congress has been asking in the Legislative Assembly the details of the houses built under LIFE Mission, the Chief Minister and other ministers were evasive in their replies. "The only answer given by the Government in the assembly is that the details were being collected.

Praveen Sinha appointed acting CBI Director

New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday appointed Gujarat cadre IPS officer of 1988 batch and Additional Director in the CBI, Praveen Sinha, as the interim chief of the premier agency following superannuation of the incumbent boss Rishi Kumar Shukla.

"With reference to the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), conveyed vide order No. 06/09/2021-EO(SM-1) dated 03.02.2021, Shri Praveen Sinha, IPS (GJ:88), Additional Director, CBI shall with immediate effect look after the duties of Director CBI, vice Shri Rishi Kumar Shukla, IPS (MP:83), till the appointment of new Director CBI, or until further orders, whichever is earlier," reads an order of the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).

CBI Director RK Shukla retired from service on Wednesday after completing his two-year tenure in the agency. He had taken over the reins of the agency following the ouster of then CBI chief Alok Verma and his deputy Rakesh Asthana following an ugly spat between the two officers. PNS

'Aviation Ministry should rationalise cancellation charges'

New Delhi: Taking note of the fact that there is no uniformity in the cancellation charges levied by the airlines, a Parliamentary Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture has expressed anguish saying the Civil Aviation Ministry should prevail upon airlines to restrict the cancellation charges to not more than 50% of the base fare.

"The Committee lends its support to the demand of rationalising the cancellation charges and is of the view that the airlines may be persuaded to restrict not more than 50% of the base fare as cancellation charges. The tax and fuel surcharge collected should be refunded to the passengers on cancellation of tickets," the committee said in its report presented in the Rajya Sabha.

The Committee further stated that the Ministry would be able to persuade the airlines for such rationalisation in the interest of the passengers. "Under no circumstances, the airline or its agent shall levy cancellation charge more than the basic fare plus fuel surcharge," it said. PNS

Whopping ₹39,038 cr Budget: BMC announces ₹18,750 cr infra works

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Presenting a whopping Rs 39,038 crore budget for the year 2021-22, Mumbai Municipal Commissioner IS Chahal on Wednesday unveiled a grandiose infrastructure plan for the country's commercial capital, by making a capital expenditure allocation of staggering Rs 18,750 crore for various development projects to be executed by the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) during the coming financial year.

The BMC is the largest civic body in Asia. Its annual budgetary outlay is larger than that of several smaller states in the country.

Presenting the budgetary estimates for 2021-22, BMC Commissioner Chahal said: "From the proposed capital expenditure of Rs.18,750 crore, we intend to take up works like various STP

projects, coastal road, GMLR, Hydro - Solar Power Project at Hinduhridaysamrat Balasaheb Thackeray Middle Vaitarna Dam, Desalination Project, Rejuvenation of Mihi River and Rejuvenation of Dahisar, Poinar and Walbhat Rivers"

"In addition, we intend to upgrade Deonar Abattoir, 12 Railway bridges, build 6 new bridges and upgrade 5 hospitals," Chahal said.

Among other things, the BMC has in its budget proposed to "give a major push to upgrade the infrastructure and civic amenities for welfare of the citizens" by undertaking development of 149 footpaths of 160 km length, 128 traffic islands, 42 out of 344 spaces under flyover and bridges (approximately 19 km), 108 community toilets and 20301 public toilets.

"We intend to complete all these projects by December 31.

We also intend to upgrade 5 gardens in each Ward, aesthetic painting of walls and food hubs at 65 locations having approximate capacity of 3331 vendors covering a total length of 11 km operational from 6 pm to 11 pm," he said.

Alluding to the massive flooding that takes place during the monsoon months in the metropolis causing considerable inconvenience to the people, Chahal said: "There are 386 chronic flooding spots in MCGM area out of which 171 spots have been already tackled. 120 additional flooding spots will be tackled before the onset of monsoon 2021".

"A step forward to upgrade civic facilities similar to worldwide standard with a view to transform Mumbai City as happy and developed City, indicators to be achieved by 2030 was planned and accordingly Budget Estimates for various activities for the year

2020-21 were proposed. However unfortunately, in the wake of Covid-19 pandemic, the need arose to divert our attention by all means to health activities to face the pandemic," the Mumbai civic chief said.

"We are happy to quote here that, we are successful in riding over the pandemic. In spite of substantial spending on account of health activities, we have also managed to expend on all other emergent works," Chahal said. Incidentally, there is a 16.7 per cent increase in the BMC's budgetary outlay 2021-22, which is Rs

39,038 crore as against budget estimates for 2020-21 which stood at Rs 33441.02 crore. The revenue expenditure, as proposed in the budget for 2021-22, is 20,276.33 crore, as against Rs 18,796 crore for the year 2020-21.

"It is necessary for the Corporation to meet all its revenue and Capital Expenditure out of its revenue receipts and the sustainable amount of borrowings. The outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic adversely affected the economy overall and consequently there is a considerable downfall in the revenue from all the sources of the BMC," the Municipal Commissioner said.

"Capital Expenditure of the Corporation has increased which is not sustainable unless revenue collection is improved and/or new sources of revenue are added," he said.

"As a result revenue surplus for

the year 2021-22 and subsequent years will reduce. This will seriously constrain both the expenditure on infrastructure as well as the level of annual borrowings by the Corporation in a sustained manner," he said.

"As against this backdrop, there are large committed liabilities of capital works already awarded, particularly in the areas of roads, SWD work including Mihi River works, health infrastructure work, school infrastructure work etc. We have tried to provide higher provision for ongoing works to secure full benefits of the expenditure already incurred. This has necessitated increased internal borrowings for Capital works in the coming fiscal year," he said.

"In the meantime, efforts will be made to identify some new sources of revenue and also to improve revenue collection from the existing sources," he said.

वन विभाग में विविध कार्य करने वाले निविदाकारों के पंजीकरण व नवीनीकरण हेतु सूचना

हरियाणा वन विभाग के क्षेत्रीय वन मंडल, जीन्द के अधीन जिला जीन्द में वर्ष 2020-21 में बिन-2 स्थानों पर पौधापौधण कार्य, अर्थ वर्क, दुलाई कार्य, पौधों को पानी देना, नलाई-गुड़ाई, नर्सरियों में पौधों की देखभाल करना, जंगलों में फायर लाइनों की सफाई करना, बिल्डिंग मैन्टेनेन्स, पौधापोषण का रख-रखाव, अन्य यानिकी व विभागीय कार्यों आदि के कार्य को करने/ करवाने हेतु सीधे निविदाकारों पंजीकृत सोसायटीय व गैर सरकारी संस्थाओं में पंजीकरण हेतु आवेदन पत्र आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

आवेदनकर्ता हरियाणा प्रदेश का स्थाई निवासी होना चाहिए। आवेदनकर्ता का वन विभाग द्वारा पंजीकरण के लिए निर्धारित शर्तों को पूरा करना होगा। आवेदनको को विभिन्न विभागीय यानिकी कार्य करने/ करवाने का 1 वर्ष का अनुभव होना आवश्यक है। इच्छुक आवेदक आवेदन पत्र किसी भी कार्यदिवस पर वन मण्डल कार्यालय से प्राप्त कर सकते हैं तथा अपना आवेदन पत्र सभी दस्तावेज सहित बंद लिफाफे में दिनांक 17.02.2021 को सायं 4:00 बजे तक वन मण्डल अधिकारी (क्षेत्रीय) जीन्द कार्यालय में जमा करवाना होगा। विभागीय पंजीकृत निविदाकार यदि वर्ष 2020-2021 में कार्य करने के इच्छुक हैं तो दिनांक 10.02.2020 तक नवीनीकरण करवायें। यह पंजीकरण दिनांक 31.03.2022 तक मान्य होगा। नए पंजीकरण के लिए 500/- तथा नवीनीकरण के लिए 250/- रुपये की PO/DD (in favour of Divisional Forest Officer, Jind) भी प्रार्थना पत्र के साथ देना अनिवार्य होगा।

हरता / - वन मंडल अधिकारी (क्षेत्रीय) जीन्द। दूरभाष 01681-255458

RO NO. 1668

AXIS BANK Branch Office at Axis Bank Ltd., Retail Asset Centre, D.No.5-2, 183/184, 3rd Floor, R.P. Road, Secunderabad
Corporate Office: 3rd Floor, Block-B, Bombay Dyeing Mills Compound, Pandurang Budhakar Marg, Worli, Mumbai-400025 Registered Office: 'Trishul', 3rd floor, opposite Samaratheswar Temple, Law garden, Ellorabridge, Gujarat, Ahmedabad-380006

POSSESSION NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT 2002

WHEREAS, The Authorized Officer of the M/s Axis Bank Ltd. (Formerly known as UTI Bank Ltd.), having its Registered Office: "TRISHUL", Opposite Samaratheswar Temple, Near Law Garden, Ellorabridge, Ahmedabad-380006 and among other places its Branch Office at Axis Bank Ltd., Retail Asset Centre, D.No.5-2, 183/184, 3rd Floor, R.P. Road, Secunderabad Branch, under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a Demand Notice under Section 13(2) of SARFAESI Act on 13.11.2020 calling upon the borrower (Co-Borrower) guarantors/Mortgagors:-

Name of Borrower / Co Borrower/ Guarantor/ Director/ Mortgagee/ Proprietor's and Address	1. Date of Demand Notice 2. Outstanding Amount 3. Date of Symbolic possession	Property Address of Secured Assets
1. Mr. Neeraj Jain, S/O. Mr. Rameshwar Jain, Meenakshi Sky Lounge, F. No. 1404, Pegasus, Meenakshi Sky Lounge, Kondapur, Hyderabad-500084. Also At: Mr. Neeraj Jain, S/O Mr. Rameshwar Jain, Bungalow No 10, Belvedere Park-23, Belvedere Road, Alipur, Kolkatta-700027. Mr. Neeraj Jain, S/O Mr. Rameshwar Jain C/O M/S. Louis Berger Consulting Pvt Ltd, # 1-98/9/313, P. No. 12, Silsicon Valley, Madhapur, Hyderabad-500081. Property Address: Mr. Neeraj Jain, S/O Mr. Rameshwar Jain, Flat No. Flat No. 'A', 172, 16th Floor, Gulshan Ikebana, Noida, U.P. 2. Mrs. Reetu Jain, (Co-Applicant) W/O. Mr. Neeraj Jain, Meenakshi Sky Lounge, F. No. 1404, Pegasus, Kondapur, Hyderabad-500084. Also At: Mrs. Reetu Jain, (Co-Applicant) W/O. Mr. Neeraj Jain, Bungalow No 10, Belvedere Park-23, Belvedere Road, Alipur, Kolkatta-700027. A/C No.: PHR073301218029	1. 13.11.2020 2. Rs.10,31,156/- (Rupees Ten Lakh Thirty One Thousand One Hundred and Fifty Six Only) 3. 20-Jan-21	SCHEDULE OF IMMOVABLE ASSET All that piece and parcel of Dwelling Unit No.A-172, on 16th Floor, in Tower No. A. A Complex known as "GULSHAN IKEBANAN" constructed at Plot No. GH-03A, Sector-143, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar-201301 (U.P.) having super Area 1995 sq. ft. (185,408 sq. mtrs.) comprising of 3 BHK + 4 Toilet + Study together with proportionate undivided importable interest in land on sub-lease basis, as per enclosed plan standing in name of Mr. Neeraj Jain, S/O. Shri. Rameshwar Kumar Jain vide Registered document and bounded as follows: Boundaries of (in 16th Floor): (Mortgaged Property) As per plan annexed in Registered Sub-Lease dated 04.10.2017 Executed in favor of Mr. Neeraj Jain S/O. Shri. Rameshwar Kumar Jain

In the circumstances as aforesaid, the notice is hereby given to the above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) to pay the outstanding dues as mentioned above along with future interest and applicable charges within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice against the secured assets including taking possession of the secured assets of the borrowers and the mortgagors under Section 13(4) of Securitization and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and the applicable rules thereunder.

Please note that under Section 13 (13) of the said Act, no Borrower shall, transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise any of his secured assets referred to in the notice, without prior written consent of the secured creditor.

Date : 04-02-2021
Place : Hyderabad

Sd/-
Authorized Officer,
Axis Bank Ltd.

Over two dozen senior BJP leaders skip K'taka CM's dinner

Bengaluru: Discontent within the BJP in Karnataka has taken a shape of "insider vs outsider" battle with over 25 party MLAs - most of them long-standing party leaders - skipping the dinner party hosted by Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa during the ongoing seven day legislature session.

Yediyurappa has had been under tremendous pressure from various groups within the party, after 17 defectors joined the BJP to bring it back to power in the state. These 17 defectors had been seeking their share of flesh by demanding "plum portfolios" while the original BJP legislators feel they have been deprived of their "rightful share" in power. The Yediyurappa-led 18-month-old government was reshuffled on January 14 for the third time and within 72 hours of carrying out a minor reshuffle, he had to reallocate portfolios almost three times among his disgruntled ministers. IANS

PUBLIC NOTICE
In pursuance of our client, we are investigating title of Mr. Dushman Kumar Sahoo ("Borrower") for Built up Second Floor, without roof rights "said roof" part of Property bearing No. K-61, area measuring 126 sq. Ycs., out of Khata No. 587, Situated in the abadi of Block K, Laxmi Nagar, in the area of Village Khandri Khas, Illaga Shahdara, Delhi ("Said Property") who intends to buy the said property by availing a loan from our Client i.e. Fullerton India Home Finance Company Ltd. by creating a mortgage against said property. Any Person having any claims or rights in respect of the Said Property are hereby requested to make the same known in writing to the undersigned within a period of 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this notice of his/her share or claim, if any, with all supporting documents, failing which, it will be assumed that there are no claims or issues in respect of Said Property and the transaction, if any shall be completed without reference to the claims, if any.

UNITED LEASING AND INDUSTRIES LIMITED
Regd Office: Plot No.66, Sector-34, EHTP, Gurgaon, Haryana-122001.
CIN: L17109HR1983PL0039460,
Phone: 0124-420074
Email Id: investorrelations@uliltd.com, website: www.uliltd.com.

Board Meeting Notice
In pursuance of Regulation 29 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that the 05th/2020-21 Meeting of the Board of Directors of the United Leasing and Industries Limited will be held on Saturday, the 13th Day of February, 2021 at 12:00 Noon at Registered office of the Company at Plot No.66, Sector.34, EHTP, Gurgaon Haryana -122001 to consider and take on record inter alia, the Unaudited financial results for the Quarter and Nine months ended on 31st December, 2020 and any other matter with the permission of the Board.
For United Leasing and Industries Limited
Place: Gurgaon Sd/-
Date: 2nd February 2021 Shashi Shekhar
Company Secretary & Compliance officer

AMU LEADER'S 'ANTI-HINDU REMARKS' ROW

Pune police file FIR against Usmani, launch hunt for him

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Hours after the Pune police registered an FIR against Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) student leader Sharjeel Usmani under Section 153-A of the IPC for his "offensive remarks", the Maharashtra police on Wednesday launched a massive search across the country to arrest him for his alleged "anti-Hindu" and "I don't trust the Indian state" comments made by him at a recent Elgaar Parishad in Pune.

Talking to media persons, Maharashtra Home Minister Anil Deshmukh said that the state police would trace Usmani in "whichever state he is in" and arrest him in connection with his controversial made at the Elgaar Parishad held in Pune on January 30.

"The police had examined the video footage of Elgaar Parishad held in Pune on January 30. A case has been registered against Sharjeel Usmani for his offensive remarks. He is not currently in Maharashtra currently. But, we will arrest him from whichever state he is in -- be it Bihar, UP, Gujarat or anywhere else," Deshmukh said.

Acting on a complaint lodged with them by the regional secretary of Bhartiya Yuva Janata Morcha (BYJM) Pradip Haribhoo Gawade, Pune's Swargate police registered an FIR against Sharjeel Usman under section 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups on the grounds of religion, race, place of birth, residence, language etc, and doing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony) of IPC.

Usmani has been booked for the speech that he made at the Elgaar Parishad held at Ganesh Kala Krisha Mandal auditorium at Swagate locality in Pune on Saturday last (January 30)

Among other things, the FIR quotes as saying: Aaj ka Hindu Samaj... Hindustan me Hindu Samaj buri tarike se sadd chukka hai (The Hindu community has become rotten in India today)". In another place of his video recorded speech, Usmani expresses his lack faith in the Indian administrative system, Judiciary, Parliament and also in the entire Indian state by saying: "I don't have trust in Indian Judiciary. I don't have trust in India. I don't have trust in Indian state."

Upping the ante over Usmani's "anti-Hindu" remark, Maharashtra's former chief minister and senior BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis had on Tuesday demanded to know "if there is Moghal Raj in Maharashtra?" and threatened

that his party would launch an agitation if action was not taken immediately against the AMU student leader for his controversial remarks.

"If a man by name Sharjeel Usmani with rotten head comes to Pune in Maharashtra calls Hindus rotten, we do not accept and will not tolerate such statements. The Maharashtra government should act this man. Don we have a Moghal Raj in Maharashtra. Can anyone heap abuses on Hindus and get away in Maharashtra?" Fadnavis had asked, while interacting with the media.

"We will not tolerate leaders participating in the Elgaar Parishad call the Hindus rotten. If the state government does not take immediate action Usmani, the BJP will launch an agitation in the state. If no action is taken against Usmani,

it will go prove that he has made the remarks with the blessings of the Uddhav Thackeray government," Fadnavis had said.

Having taken cognisance of Usmani's controversial speech, State Home Minister Anil Deshmukh had said on Tuesday that the state police would examine speeches by various leaders at Elgaar Parishad. "If anything objectionable is found, we shall take action accordingly on it... However, I can't comment more as the police investigations are underway," he had said. The Elgar Parishad was organized by the Bhima-Koregaon Shaurya Din Prerana Abhiyan, on January 30, to coincide with the 5th death anniversary of the late Dalit scholar from University of Hyderabad, Rohith Vemula, who committed suicide on Jan. 17, 2016.

NORTHERN RAILWAY Open E-Tender Notice	
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work:	
Work of	Provision of Ramp on FOB at LC-C4 Patel Nagar in the section of SSE/W/ DL/LLine under ADEN/DLI.
Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 1,87,23,965.59 (Rupees One Crore Eighty Seven Lakh Twenty Three Thousand Nine Hundred Sixty Five and paise Fifty Nine only)
Earnest Money to be Deposit	Rs.0.00
Cost of tender document	Rs.0/-
Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	26.02.2021 @ 15:00 Hrs.
Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.treps.gov.in
The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. www.treps.gov.in for participating in the e-tender system. For all terms and conditions please refer tender document. No manual offers are acceptable. Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only. No. 128-W/280/E Tender Notice/NIT/37/2020-21/W-3 Dated : 03.02.2021	
254/2021 Serving Customers With A Smile	

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT/AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	HVED	CONSTRUCTION OF 1000 MT CAPACITY GDOONS (WITHOUT ROOFING/LC ROADS, AFTER DEMOUNTING OF EXISTING NON-CONVERTIBLE PLINTHS, REPAIR, RENOVATION OF OFFICE & EXISTING GDOONS AT HATED COMPLEX CHAULTA - 6 OTHER WORKS	04.02.2021 12.02.2021	46.55 LACS	www.hved.gov.in	0172295530 hved@hry.nic.in
2	COLLI SRSA	SUPPORTING INSTALLATION/TESTING/COMMISSIONING OF HUMANWARE SOFTWARE FOR ERP CELL, COLLI SRSA	21.02.2021 08.02.2021	16270/-	colli.ac.in	999601702 sk_wj@colli.ac.in

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

SR. NO.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT/AUTH	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME)	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT/AUTH	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL
1	BD & PO, BHIWANI	CONST. OF PARK-CUM-VYAMSHALA, VILLAGE REWARI KHERA BLOCK & DISTT., BHIWANI AMOUNT 26.08 LAC	05.02.2021 19.02.2021	26.08 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9416087780 bdpo@hry.nic.in
2	PANCHAYATI RAJ NARNALA	PAVEMENT OF PLB 26.08	10.02.2021 12.02.2021	105.54 LACS	www.etenders.hry.nic.in	670877077 prexeeng.nri@hry.nic.in
3	ESI HOSPITAL JAGADHRI	DIETARY ARTICLES (VEGETABLES, FRUITS, DAIRY FOODS, DAL, DRY ITEMS)	04.02.2021 25.02.2021	9.47 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	0173227640 esih-jagadhari.hr@esic.nic.in
4	PANCHAYATI RAJ HISAR	PAVEMENT OF STREET WITH BRICK ON EDGE AT VILLAGE BEHALPUR, SARSOOD BLOCK BARWALA, VILLAGE MATTARSHAYAM BLOCK HISAR2 + 1 OTHER WORKS	03.02.2021 18.02.2021	78.75 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9467251500 prexeeng.hsr@hry.nic.in
5	PANCHAYATI RAJ PANIPAT	DISPOSAL OF WASTE WATER/LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT WITH 3 YEARS O&M OF THE PROJECT AFTER COMPLETION AT VILLAGE KHOJKIPUR KHURD BLOCK BAPOLI IN DISTRICT PANIPAT + 21 OTHER WORKS	11.02.2021 18.02.2021	790.49 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9355815400 prexeeng.pnp@hry.nic.in

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

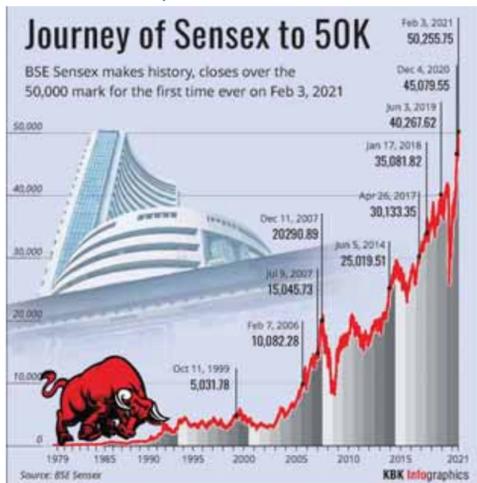
SENSEX MAKES HISTORY

Closed above 50,000-mark for first time

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The BSE Sensex closed above the historic 50,000-mark for the first time ever on Wednesday as the post-Budget euphoria continued for the third straight session amid a spurt in buying by foreign funds and positive global cues. Banking, finance and pharma counters hogged the limelight, while cement and FMCG stocks succumbed to profit-taking.

After touching a record intra-day high of 50,526.39, the 30-share BSE benchmark ended at 50,255.75, up 458.03 points or 0.92 per cent. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty surged 142.10 points or 0.97 per cent to its fresh closing record of 14,789.95. It touched an all-time high of 14,868.85 during the day. IndusInd Bank topped the Sensex gainers' chart, zooming 7.65 per cent, followed by PowerGrid, Dr Reddy's, Sun Pharma, NTPC and Axis Bank. On the other hand,



UltraTech Cement, Maruti, ITC, Kotak Bank, Asian Paints, Nestle India and TCS were among the losers, slipping up to 0.90 per cent. "Domestic equities continued to remain in the grip of

bulls and broader indices made fresh record highs today," said Binod Modi, Head Strategy at Reliance Securities. Optimism created after the announcement of bold measures in the Union Budget

continued to attract investors. Favourable global cues also supported the market rally. Notably, market cap of Indian market is just fraction away from surpassing ₹200 trillion levels, he added.

"Given sharp increase in capital expenditure along with a number of reforms to give impetus to investment activities, momentum in corporate earnings is expected to sustain in subsequent quarters. Further, higher fiscal stimulus in the US, persistent soft monetary policy stance of global bankers and weak dollar should continue to act as key tailwinds for FPIs flows.

"In the near term, monetary policy outcome will be a key focus area for market, which is broadly expected to remain favourable," he noted.

Sector-wise, BSE utilities, healthcare, power, metal, telecom and finance indices rose as much as 2.47 per cent, while realty and FMCG finished with losses.

Amazon's billionaire founder Jeff Bezos to step down as CEO

Andy Jassy named successor

PTI ■ NEW YORK

Jeff Bezos, who founded Amazon as an online bookseller nearly three decades ago, will step down as the CEO of the \$1.7 trillion global e-commerce giant and will become the executive chairman, a move he said would give him "time and energy" to focus on his other ventures and passions.

Amazon, which announced on Wednesday that 2020 net sales increased 38 per cent to \$386.1 billion, compared with \$280.5 billion in 2019, said Bezos will transition to the role of Executive Chair in the third quarter of 2021 and Andy Jassy, CEO of the company's cloud business, Amazon Web Services, will become CEO at that time.

Bezos has been Amazon's CEO since its founding in 1995. He oversaw its growth



from an online bookseller into a \$1.7 trillion global retail and logistics giant, which has also made the 57-year-old into one of the world's richest persons. "Amazon is what it is because of invention. We do crazy things together and then make them normal," Bezos said, adding that the company pioneered customer reviews, 1-Click, personalised recommendations, Prime's insanely-fast shipping, Just Walk Out shopping, the Climate Pledge, Kindle, Alexa, marketplace, infrastructure cloud computing, Career Choice, and much more.

India does not agree with USTR's report on ecommerce tax: Commerce Secy

New Delhi: India does not agree with the United States Trade Representative (USTR) report that the country's two per cent equalisation levy on foreign e-commerce firms discriminates against American companies, Commerce Secretary Anup Wadhawan said on Wednesday.

Last month, an USTR investigation has concluded that India's 2 per cent digital services tax on e-commerce supply discriminates against US companies and is inconsistent with international tax principles.

"We do not agree with that conclusion," Wadhawan told reporters when asked whether India has responded to the USTR report.

"Basically, if there is an economic benefit from a certain jurisdiction then there has to be some taxation in that jurisdiction...OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) is also moving in that direction that if you have an economic presence and economic gain, then you must have taxation in that jurisdiction," he said. PTI

FinMin releases weekly installment of ₹6K cr to States to meet GST shortfall

New Delhi: The Finance Ministry on Wednesday released the 14th installment of ₹6,000 crore to States to meet the GST compensation shortfall, taking the total amount of fund released so far to ₹84,000 crore.

Till now, 76 per cent of the total estimated GST compensation shortfall has been released to States and 3 UTs.

Out of this, an amount of ₹76,616.16 crore has been released to 23 States and ₹7,383.84 crore to the 3 UTs with Legislative Assembly (Delhi, J&K, Puducherry).

The remaining 5 States, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Sikkim, do not have a gap in revenue on account of GST implementation, it added.

The Centre had set up a special borrowing window in October 2020 to meet the estimated shortfall of ₹1.10 lakh crore in revenue arising on account of implementation of GST. The Finance Ministry in a statement said it has released the 14th weekly installment of ₹6,000 crore to states to meet the GST compensation shortfall. PTI

₹ settles flat at 72.95 against \$

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee ended just 1 paisa higher at 72.95 against the US dollar on Wednesday amid a firm trend in the domestic equity markets.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 72.96 against the greenback and witnessed an intra-day high of 72.92 and a low of 72.98.

It finally ended at 72.95 against the American currency, registering a rise of just 1 paisa over its previous close.

The dollar index, which gauges the greenback's

strength against a basket of six currencies, declined 0.03 per cent to 91.17.

"The USD-INR spot is not breaking the narrow range of 72.75-73.20. Right now, the market is very flat and volatility is muted.

"The bullish sentiments and inflows into local stocks confined the advance in rupee, but for that RBI's protection around 72.75-73 zone should end," said Rahul Gupta, Head of Research-Currency, Emkay Global Financial Services.

Gupta further noted that traders are waiting for RBI policy outcome for more clarity over the trend.

Gold declines ₹232, silver tanks ₹1,955

New Delhi: Gold in the national capital on Wednesday declined by ₹232 to ₹47,387 per 10 gram amid decline in global precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹47,619 per 10 gram. Silver also dipped ₹1,955 to ₹67,605 per kilogram from ₹69,560 per kilogram in the previous trade.

In the international market, gold was quoting lower at \$1,835 per ounce and silver was flat at \$26.78 per ounce. PTI

RBI's panel starts deliberations on monetary policy

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank's rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) began its meeting on Wednesday and is likely to hold interest rates and continue with accommodative policy stance so that necessary monetary action could be taken to push growth.

This is the first MPC meeting after the presentation of the Union Budget 2021-22.

Although the bi-monthly monetary to be announced on February 5 is likely to refrain from cutting benchmark repo rate, it will ensure availability of adequate liquidity which

will be needed to spur investment in the infrastructure sector. The six-member MPC headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has started its deliberations. After the three-day meeting, resolution of the MPC would be announced on February 5.

The MPC kept the key benchmark rate unchanged in its last three reviews. The current repo rate — rate at which RBI lends to banks — is at a record low of 4 per cent. The reverse repo rate — rate for funds parked by banks with RBI — is 3.35 per cent. PTI

RBI unveils risk-based internal audit guidelines for select NBFCs, urban co-operative banks

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday unveiled the risk-based internal audit (RBIA) system for select non-bank lenders and urban co-operative banks, with a view to enhance the quality and effectiveness of their internal audit system. All the deposit-taking non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and the ones with an asset size of over ₹5,000 crore, and urban co-operatives banks (UCBs) with assets of over ₹500 crore will have to migrate to the new system, the RBI said. PTI

AI employees' interest will be protected, says Union Minister

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The interest of Air India employees will be safeguarded in accordance with the guidance of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri said on Wednesday.

The disinvestment process of Air India, which had a total debt of over ₹38,366 crore in the last fiscal — is in progress.

Reliance gets world's first 'carbon-neutral' oil from US

New Delhi: Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd has sourced the world's first consignment of "carbon-neutral oil" from the US as it looks to become a net zero-carbon company by 2035.

Reliance, which operates the world's largest single location oil refining complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat with capacity of 68.2 million tonnes a year, got 2 million barrels of consignment Permian basin, the US supplier said in a statement. PTI

world

Myanmar police file charges against Aung San Suu Kyi

AP ■ YANGON

Police levelled their first formal charge against Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi, members of her party said on Wednesday, giving military authorities who staged a coup a legal reason to detain her at least through the middle of the month.

The charge - that Suu Kyi was in possession of illegally imported walkie-talkies - came to light two days after she was placed under house arrest and appeared to be an effort to lend a legal veneer to her detention, though the generals have previously kept her and others locked up for years.

The military announced on Monday that it would take power for one year — accusing Suu Kyi's government of not investigating allegations of voter fraud in recent elections. Suu Kyi's party swept that vote, and the military-backed party did poorly.

National League for Democracy spokesman Kyi Toe confirmed the charge against Suu Kyi that carries a



maximum sentence of three years in prison. He also said the country's ousted president, Win Myint, was charged with violating the natural disaster management law. A leaked charge sheet dated February 1 indicates they can be held until February 15.

"It was clear that the military were going to look for some legal cases against the leaders of the National League for Democracy and especially Aung San Suu Kyi to actually legitimize what they've tried to do," said Larry Jagan, an independent analyst of Myanmar affairs. "And that is really a

power grab."

Police and court officials in the capital Naypyitaw could not immediately be contacted.

At the same time that authorities were working to keep Suu Kyi in detention, hundreds of lawmakers who had been forced to stay at government housing after the coup were told Wednesday to leave the capital city within 24 hours and go home, said a member of Parliament from Suu Kyi's party who is among the group. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he feared drawing the attention of the military. PTI

International action should not escalate tensions in Myanmar post-coup: China on UNSC meet

Beijing: China on Wednesday said it was opposed to any strong resolution by the UN Security Council condemning the military coup in Myanmar and insisted that any action by the international community should not escalate the tensions and complicate matters. Myanmar's military on Monday took control of the country for one year and detained top political figures, including de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

China along with Russia reportedly blocked efforts by the UNSC at its consultative meeting on Tuesday to issue a strong statement condemning the coup. Asked what China has proposed at the meeting, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a media briefing here on Wednesday that the international community should create favourable conditions for settling the issues between Myanmar military and Suu Kyi. "The UNSC held its internal consultation on Myanmar. China has participated in the consultation. China is a friendly neighbour to Myanmar," Wang said. PTI

NCP's Prachanda-led faction to stage general strike in Nepal today

Kathmandu: The ruling Nepal Communist Party's splinter faction led by Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and Madhav Kumar Nepal has announced a country-wide general strike against Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli-led government on Thursday.

Opposing the government's move of administering oath of office and secrecy to newly appointed members of various constitutional bodies, the splinter faction of the ruling party decided to stage a general strike, Narayan Kaji Shrestha, spokesperson for the party, said on Wednesday.

Transport service, markets, educational institutions will be shut down during the strike, he said. At a Press meet organised at the party office at Parisdanda on the outskirts of Kathmandu, Shrestha claimed that their general strike will be peaceful.

On Wednesday morning, Chief Justice Cholendra Shamsher Rana administered the oath of office to almost four dozen people in various constitutional bodies in the pres-

ence of President Bidya Devi Bhandari. Following the dissolution of parliament, the newly appointed members of constitutional bodies took oath of office and secrecy without parliamentary hearing, breaching the normal procedures.

Shrestha termed the appointment of the office bearers and members of various constitutional bodies by caretaker Oli government as unconstitutional and said that it shows autocratic tendency of the government.

The caretaker government has no right to make new appointments and also reshuffle the cabinet, he said, pointing to the latest cabinet reshuffle by Prime Minister Oli.

"We are compelled to go to the street to oppose the government's unconstitutional move," he added. Nepal plunged into a political crisis on December 20 after 68-year-old Oli, known for his pro-China leanings, in a surprise move dissolved Parliament, amidst a tussle for power with Prachanda. PTI

Biden signs executive orders reversing Trump's immigration policies

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Joe Biden has signed three executive orders that he said would lead to a "fair, orderly and humane" legal immigration system and also undo his predecessor Donald Trump's hardline policies that ripped children from the arms of their families.

The review of the existing policies and the subsequent recommendations coming from 60 to 180 days from various federal agencies are likely to benefit hundreds and thousands of Indian professionals in realising their dream of citizenship of the United States.

"I'm not making new law, I'm eliminating bad policy," Biden said on Tuesday at the White House, flanked by Vice President Kamala Harris and newly confirmed Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, of the stream of executive orders he has signed as President.

"This is about how America's safer, stronger, more prosperous when we have a fair, orderly, and humane legal



immigration system," Biden told reporters.

He said his executive orders are aimed to strengthen the immigration system, building on the executive actions he took on day one to protect the Dreamers, and the Muslim ban, and to better manage of the country's borders.

"The federal government should develop welcoming strategies that promote integration, inclusion and citizenship, and it should embrace the full participation of the newest Americans in our democracy," he said in one of the three executive orders.

Taliban on diplomatic blitz after Afghan peace talks stall

AP ■ ISLAMABAD

The Taliban have been on a diplomatic blitz since peace talks with the Afghan government stalled in Qatar last month and the Biden administration said it plans to review a US-Taliban agreement signed last February.

The flurry of activity — including Taliban visits to Iran and Moscow, and a planned trip to Turkey — comes as the Afghan government's negotiating team warned this week that if the Taliban fail to resume the talks, the government could recall its team from Doha.

The peace talks resumed in early January in Qatar, where the Taliban have a political office, but quickly halted, marred by a spike in violence across Afghanistan, with the warring sides blaming one another.

A Taliban official said the talks stalled after the Taliban demanded the government side accept a new "inclusive Islamic system" that includes all "tribes and groups" in Afghanistan — language that indicates the Taliban seek guarantees that Islamic rule would be in place in post-war Afghanistan.

The Government instead demanded the Taliban first join the current political system and declare a cease-fire, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the media.

However, Nader Nadery, a government negotiator, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that it was the Taliban who have until now refused to return to the negotiating table. He denied any discussions over competing agendas.

Turkey's Erdogan describes student protesters as terrorists

AP ■ ANKARA

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has denounced student protesters as "terrorists" and vowed to crackdown on demonstrations opposing the appointment of a government loyalist to head Istanbul's most prestigious university.

Students and faculty members of Bogazici University have spent weeks protesting Erdogan's Jan 1 appointment of Melih Bulu, an academic who once ran for parliament as a candidate for Erdogan's party. They have called for Bulu to resign as the university's rector and for the university to be allowed to elect its own president, saying the appointment was an affront to academic liberties.

Scores of students have been detained amid the protests, some taken away following raids of their homes.

"I do not accept these youngsters, who are members of terrorist groups, as sharing our country's national and moral values," Erdogan said in a video address to thousands of ruling party members who are holding regional congresses.

"Are you students... Or are you terrorists who try to raid the office of the rector and occupy it?" he asked.

Erdogan went on to say that his government would not allow mass anti-government protests like the ones that swept across Turkey in 2013. The protests were sparked by the government's construction plans at Gezi Park, adjacent to Istanbul main Taksim square.

"This country won't be a country dominated by terrorists. We will never allow it," the Turkish leader said. "This country won't re-live incidents such as the Gezi events at Taksim."

Tamil activists hold protest rally in Lanka

PTI ■ COLOMBO

Tamil political and civil society groups in Sri Lanka held a protest rally on Wednesday, highlighting the grievances being faced by the community and demanding justice for civilians killed and disappeared during the civil war in the island nation.

As per UN figures, up to 40,000 civilians were killed by the security forces during then Mahinda Rajapaksa's regime that brought an end to nearly three decades of civil war in Sri Lanka with the defeat of LTTE in 2009. Both the government troops and the Tamil Tiger rebels are accused of war crimes.

According to the protest organisers, the rally saw a huge participation, despite police obtaining court orders to stop

it. The four-day protest march started from Pottuvil town in the eastern Amparai district and it would end at Polikandy in the northern Jaffna district on February 6.

The protest came days after the UN Human Rights Office last week called for an "international action to ensure justice for international crimes" allegedly committed during the 26-year civil war. Sri Lanka has rejected the report.

The protest aims at highlighting several issues being faced by the Tamil community in Lanka.

The protesters allege that lands owned by Tamils are being grabbed and Tamil areas are being systematically populated with the majority Sinhala community since the military conflict ended in 2009 in Lanka.

Biden presses Iran diplomacy as new special envoy tapped

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The Biden administration says it's going to revamp and enhance diplomacy toward Iran as the US looks at restoring constraints on the country's nuclear program and reining in its regional ambitions.

As Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the appointment of a new special envoy for Iran on Friday, President Joe Biden's national security adviser said that restoring limits on the Iranian nuclear program is a top priority and that the administration would work to build on whatever restrictions it could negotiate.

Jake Sullivan said Friday

that the administration's goal is to put Iran's nuclear program "back into a box" and then to confront other problematic Iranian activity in the Middle East. President Donald Trump cited Iran's "malign behavior" in the Middle East as one reason for withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear deal that Sullivan helped negotiate for the Obama administration. "Our view is that if we can get back to diplomacy that can put Iran's nuclear program in a box, that will create a platform upon which to build a global effort," Sullivan said at an event hosted by the U.S. Institute of Peace, with Trump's national security adviser Robert O'Brien.



Bollywood
 It's the best thing if your work is your passion in life. It makes me feel like I'm always on a break.
 —Akshay Kumar

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

TREND BLAZER

YAMI PREPARES FOR DASVI

Actor **YAMI GAUTAM** is currently prepping for her role in Dinesh Vijan's *Dasvi* which also stars Abhishek Bachchan and Nimrat Kaur.

To get under the skin of her character, she is taking lessons in Haryanvi as she will be speaking the North-Indian language in the film. Says Yami, "This is the first time I will be playing a Haryanvi character onscreen. It is a different challenge for me. I am currently working on learning the language."



fairtalk

PARINEETI CHOPRA



"I'm humbled with the response that I have been getting for my work in *The Girl On The Train*. I have given my blood, sweat and tears and tapped into the innermost traumatic memories of my life to bring this character to life. I don't remember how many times I broke down on the sets because I was harnessing memories that I have buried deep inside."

dailytalk

SHREYA GHOSHAL



"The song creation process of my latest release *Angana Morey* was a lot of fun because I had a fabulous team of musicians jamming and exploring new ideas constantly. The video creation was another awesome experience. The post-production touches by the team added the magical factor to the video."

'I DIDN'T GO TO DRAMA SCHOOL'

Actress **CAREY MULLIGAN** has revealed that she used to spend months preparing for roles because she felt the need to justify her casting, as she had never gone to acting school.

"I didn't go to drama school, I felt like a chancer, so I figured that I had to do loads of home work so that I was allowed to be here," Mulligan said.



Students sitting at a distance, conducting practicals and doubt clearing sessions in shifts, short and staggered classes, no food sharing, closed canteens and playgrounds, wearing masks and carrying sanitisers are now the new essentials to attending schools. This is exactly what we expected when educational institutions finally reopened.

Students of classes 10 and 12 were already attending school and, in a move towards further normalisation, the Delhi government recently allowed classes nine and 11, which were shut since March last year to avoid the spread of the Coronavirus pandemic, to reopen. Deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia said that the classes will resume from February 5 with the consent of parents and physical attendance will not be compulsory. He added that it is mandatory for all schools and colleges to follow the COVID-19 protocols.

"The students will attend classes in a staggered manner and with the permission of parents," Sisodia said, according to news agency PTI. There are various other steps too that the school authorities need to take to ensure that the students stay safe from the infection.

According to Alka Kapur, Principal, Modern Public School, the safest way for the students to commute would be via private vehicles of their parents/guardians. Other modes of conveyance should be avoided for the time being. She further advises the use of thermal scanners at all the entry points to ensure that any student or staff, who is showing signs of sickness, could be isolated and treated quickly.

"The classes should be conducted in a staggered manner. This will mean that at a time, only a certain number of students would be present in the



BACK TO SCHOOL

As Delhi government announces reopening of classes nine and 11, educational institutions gear up to maintain safety and sanitisation while developing confidence among parents.

By SAKSHI SHARMA

class," says she as this would allow the school authorities to easily maintain proper physical distancing among the students and further reduce the chances of infection getting spread. "Blended learning - with the help of webcams, speakers and microphones, supported by a



strong network - would also play a major role in this, as the students can learn via a balanced combination of online and offline modes. The schools should also consider investing in touchless sanitiser and water dispensers," adds Kapur. Maintaining social distancing in schools not only involves the classrooms, can-

teens or playground but staircases and labs as well. Dr Sudha Acharya, Principal, ITL Public School says, "There is one way entry from the staircase. There are five to six people who monitor the chemistry and physics labs and ensure that the equipment is sanitised frequently." Although various schools have shut the playgrounds for the students until further notice, Acharya believes that physical learning is equally important. Hence, she plans to take a batch of 12 students to the playground at a point of time.

No matter how safe and secure an environment is, parents will be apprehensive about their ward's safety. To gain their trust, Acharya called five parents from every section to oversee the arrangements done by the school. She also conducted a session with them to clear their doubts and take them into confidence.

There are various schools sending circulars and mails to parents explaining the merits behind school education and their support. Rohan Parikh, Managing Director - The Green Acres Academy says, "We shall be sending out a circular to all parents informing them of the protocols and also the essential support required from them to ensure a safe environment. The circular will be available for parents via the school app and e-portal."

Carvings on a hill — The Udaygiri Caves

KUSHAN MITRA witnesses sculptures that document the beginnings of some of our religious practices



Sometimes when you make fascinating discoveries at a hitherto unseen Indian historical site (quick aside: while I'm a child of two history scholars, I did read English Literature in college), it makes you wonder how much of the past have we lost. Lost to time and to a people who live in the now and do not care about history — an awful truth about much of India. And yet, you sometimes see a place like the Udaygiri Caves and are grateful for what we have not lost. Partially the reason why a place like this survived was because these were carvings of Hindu gods in a very religious part of the country that was rarely conquered by outsiders and also the fact that Madhya Pradesh, unlike the Gangetic plains, is not teeming with humanity at every nook and cranny. Yes, the Udaygiri Caves are located beside a small village where farmers till the lands fed by the Betwa River.

These caves are located on a lone hill, about half an hour's drive from Sanchi, through some lovely rural roads where the brilliant surface is coupled with a few twists and turns and an overall lack of traffic making it an excellent drive on the new Hyundai i20. Seriously, this little hatchback with its small terrier of an engine is the perfect car to drive through these parts. You eventually arrive at the site where construction of a new visitor centre seems stalled although, given the pandemic and the drop in visitor numbers as a result, that should not be surprising. Unlike the Buddhist sites Udaygiri does not attract religious pilgrims. Sanchi, for example, attracted thousands of Sinhalese Buddhists every month and there was even talk of a direct flight between Bhopal and Colombo.

According to inscriptions found at the site, most of these — particularly the famous carvings of Varaha and the sleeping Vishnu — were done during the reign of King Chandragupta Vikramaditya (aka Chandragupta II). The work was super-



vised by his minister of war and peace Virasena. The work was continued by his heir Kumaragupta and most of the early caves are dated back to the early 400's CE. Later emperors and kings added to the complex. While the relief carved onto the caves are clearly Hindu, newer caves depict Buddhist and Jain mythology and legend as well. The Archaeological Survey of India has done a great job of preserving many of the caves although gating many cave entrances means that photography is often quite difficult. Thankfully, small mobile phone camera lenses can capture the interiors. While I agree that it is a good idea to prevent the desecration of the caves, the ASI could use clear glass or perspex barriers instead of gating everything. At the Maladevi Temple, one understood that going inside was risky, because of the structural integrity issues, but here that was not a problem. You therefore tend to not clearly see the unique 'Mukhaling' inside Cave 4 where a face is depicted on the lingam.

There are several very interesting sculptures across the Udaygiri Cave complex, but among the most fascinating was Cave Number 5, extremely prominent and visible from the road itself. Inside the cave is a temple to Kartikeya and the tremendous sculpture of Vishnu as 'Varaha' (the boar) saving the Earth Goddess Bhudevi from the demon Hiranyaksha while the other gods and goddesses look at him from above. What is interesting is not just this sculpture but some of the surrounding ones, notable among them being Ganesha. While the elephant-headed god is a staple in many Indian households today, this is actually the earliest known example of Ganesha in this form.

And on the same rockface, but in Cave 6, is also the earliest known representation of Mahisasurardini, the 10-handed Durga riding a lion, slaying the demon Mahisasur. Every year, Bengalis worship the *protima* (idol) of Durga doing this but seeing the first known example from 1,600 years ago is quite something. There is also the fascinating Cave 13 where a reclining Vishnu (as Narayana). As most of the other caves are quite small, you might miss a few of them. Nevertheless, the walk up to the summit is worth it, if for nothing else, for the brilliant view of the Betwa floodplains from the top and also the fact that much of the local plant population has also survived here and hasn't been replaced by European imports. Next up, in the final part of the Great India Drive with The Pioneer, we will write about our journey to Satdhara and the huge and unknown Stupa complex there.



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 CIN: L17226DL1984PLC033384

NOTICE
 NOTICE is hereby given, pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2021, inter-alia, to consider and approve Unaudited Financial Results of the company for the third quarter ended December 31, 2020.

PASUPATI ACRYLON LIMITED
 Regd. Office: Kashipur Road, Thakurdwara, Distt. Moradabad (UP)
 Tel: 011-47627400, Fax: 011-47627497
 Email: delhi@pasupatiacrylon.com
 CIN No. - L50102UP1982PLC015532
 website: www.pasupatiacrylon.com

NOTICE
 Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 a Meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, the 10th February, 2021 inter-alia to consider and approve the Un-audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and nine months ended 31st December, 2020. The said information is available on the Company's website at www.pasupatiacrylon.com and BSE Ltd. at www.bseindia.com.

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI
 OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (CIVIL) PLANT SDW S/E SRINIWASPURI: NEW DELHI: 110065

Press N.I.T. No.37 (2020-21)
"STOP CORONA; Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene"

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Cost	Date of release of tender in E-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e-procurement solution
1.	Construction of RCC boundary wall along gravity duct near T-point of Captain Gaur Marg and Ring Road. 2021_DJB_199471_5	Rs. 30,05,260/-	02/02/2021	22/02/2021 Up to 3:00 PM

Further details in this regard can be seen at <https://delhi.govtprocurement.com>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Sd/-
 Advt. No. J.S.V. 362 (2020-21) EX. ENGINEER (CIVIL) PLANT SDW S/E.

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF A PERSON ACCUSED
 (See Section 82 Cr.P.C.)
 Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused **Sonu S/o Raj Kumar @ Anil Shah R/o C-58, Shakur Pur J.J. Colony, Delhi-34** also at Village Chainpur, Distt. Mujaffarpur, Bihar have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 224/16 U/s 307/34 IPC PS Rani Bagh, Delhi** and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused **Sonu** can not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused **Sonu** has absconded (or is concealing himself to avoid the service of the said warrant).
 Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Sonu** of **FIR No. 224/16 U/s 307/34 IPC PS Rani Bagh, Delhi** is required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 16.03.2021
 By Order
 Sh. Suresh Kumar Gupta,
 Principal Distt. & Sessions Judge (North-West)
 Room No. 401, 4th Floor, District Court,
 Rohini, Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING
 General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely: Nisha Thakur, D/o: Vijay Thakur, R/o: 73 T Huts, Kabir Nagar, Rana Pratap Bagh, Delhi, Age: 22 Years, Height: 4'5", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Red Colour Skirt & Sky Blue Kurta** has been missing since 15.01.2021 from in front of her house. In this regard **DD No. 21A, Dated 17.01.2021**, has been lodged at **P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi**.
 Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing lady but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing lady please inform the undersigned.
 Web-site : <http://cbi.nic.in> SHO
 E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
 Fax: 011-23011334 P.S. Bharat Nagar, Delhi
 DP/628/NW/2021 Ph.: 011-27301200, 27301800

SUPRA INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES LTD.
 Regd. Off.: 12/2, Hemkunt Chamber, 89, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019
 CIN: L65990DL1985PLC019887
 Website: www.supraindustrialresources.in
 Email: supra1985@gmail.com / supraexchange.com@gmail.com

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Friday, 12th February 2021 at the Registered Office at 12/2, Hemkunt Chambers, 89, Nehru Place, New Delhi -110019 at 11:00 A.M. to inter-alia, consider and approve the Unaudited Standalone Financial Results for the quarter and Nine months ended December 31, 2020 along with the Limited Review Report of the Auditors for the corresponding period.
 The said information is also available on the website of the Company viz. www.supraindustrialresources.in and the website of the stock exchange where the company's shares are listed viz. Metropolitan Stock Exchange of India (www.msei.in)

On Behalf of the Board For Supra Industrial Resources Limited. Sd/-
 Rajat Agarwal Director
 New Delhi 03rd February 2021 Din: 00266205

BIHAR STATE KHADI AND VILLAGE INDUSTRIES BOARD
 Department of Industries
Corrigendum -2
 Due to the unavoidable circumstances, the date for the submission and opening of tender is extended as follows:
Previous Tender Notice 3463 dated 06.12.2020 and PR No. - 009113 dated 06/12/2020, Corrigendum -1 PR No.-011304 dated 17.01.2021 for Leasing of restaurant with kitchen and open space in Khadi Mall, East Gandhi Maidan, PATNA-800001

Wherever appear in Corrigendum -1	Will Appear As
Last date of Receiving Bid Document: 27 th January 2021, 2 PM	Last date of Receiving Bid Document: 19 th February 2021, 2 PM
Last date of Opening Bid Document: 27 th January 2021, 4 PM	Last date of Opening Bid Document: 19 th February 2021, 4 PM

Further information can be obtained from the address mentioned below during office hours (10.30 AM to 5.00 PM): **Chief Executive officer KVIB, PATNA**

Chief Executive Officer, Bihar State Khadi and Village Industries Board, East Gandhi Maidan, Patna-800001, Contact: 7320923213, 7004503382, Mail id: kvibpatna@gmail.com Website: www.kvibbihar.com
 PR- 012240 (Industries) 2020-21

किसी भी तरह आपदा की जानकारी जल्दा सुनाव हेतु आपदा प्रबंधन के हेल्पलाइन नं. 1070 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।



ICG celebrates its 45th Raising Day



Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated its 45th Raising Day. From a modest beginning with just 7 surface platforms in 1978, ICG has grown into a formidable force with 156 ships and 62 aircraft in its inventory and is likely to achieve targeted force levels of 200 surface platforms and 80 aircraft by 2025.

As the fourth largest Coast Guard in the world, Indian Coast Guard has played a significant role in securing the Indian Coasts and enforcing regulations within the Maritime Zones of India. True to its motto *Vayam Rakshamah* meaning 'We Protect', the service has to its credit saving over 10,000 lives and apprehending around 14,000 miscreants since inception in 1977. On an average, Coast Guard saves one precious life every second day at sea.

Despite the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Indian Coast Guard has maintained 24x7 vigil in the Exclusive Economic Zone by deploying about 50 ships and 12 aircrafts daily. The deterrence at sea and coordinated air surveillance by the service enabled seizure of contraband worth about ₹1,500 crore and apprehension of more than 10 foreign fishing boats with 80 miscreants illegally operating in the Indian EEZ alone in year 2020. The 'Preventive and Measured Response' stance of operations introduced just over a year ago ensured that more than 6,000 fishing boats with about 40,000 fishermen were escorted to safe harbours during the passage of 11 cyclones last year, thus, averting loss of lives and property at sea.

In consonance with the PM's vision of 'SAGAR — Security And

Growth of All' in the region, Indian Coast Guard created maritime history in dousing a raging fire onboard the 333 M long Very Large Crude Carrier Motor Tanker New Diamond with about 3 Lakh Metric Tonnes of crude oil off Sri Lanka, thereby averting a major ecological disaster. Further, ICG also provided pollution response assistance to Mauritius during the grounding of Merchant Vessel Wakashio and provided 30 T of pollution response equipment in addition to training. ICG is also collaborating with littoral countries to combat transnational maritime crimes and enhance maritime safety in its area of responsibility and in the Indian Ocean region.

To harmonise the Maritime & Civil Aviation Search & Rescue mechanism, ICG conducted National Maritime Search and Rescue Board meeting, and followed it up with SAR Exercise-2020 (SAREX-2020) to validate the existing mechanism for undertaking Mass Rescue Operations. In order to synergise Coastal Security and intelligence, a maiden seminar was conducted to enhance the effectiveness of intelligence sharing between stakeholders. The service is also working in close coordination with central and state agencies to put in place a robust Coastal Security mechanism.

The President of India, Vice President, Prime Minister and Defence Minister congratulated the Indian Coast Guard on completion of 44 glorious years of yeoman service to the nation and appreciated the remarkable role played by the service in pursuit of the nation's interests in the Maritime Zones.

BE VOCAL FOR LOCAL

The fortnight-long National Tribal Festival, *Aadi Mahotsav*, at Dilli Haat has a variety of products on offer

It was a riot of colours at the Dilli Haat last evening, where the fortnight-long National Tribal Festival — the *Aadi Mahotsav* was kicked off. Showcasing the proud identity and culture of the tribal people, the place was abuzz with life and provided a glimpse into the rich, artistic tribal traditions. Speaking on the occasion, the Vice President of India, Venkaiah Naidu, said, "The greatness of the tribes lies in the fact that they have managed to retain their primal and natural simplicity. The earthy and natural tribal handicraft instantly touches a primal instinct in all of us and hence, any loss of tribal culture would be an irreparable loss to humanity."

Arjun Munda, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Renuka Singh Saruta, Minister of State for Tribal Affairs, S Subramanyam, Secretary, Tribal Affairs, RC Meena, Chairman, TRIFED and Pravir Krishna, Managing Director, TRIFED were among the dignitaries present on the occasion.

With more than 200 stalls from across the country and about 1,000 artisans with their unique stories participating, the *Aadi Mahotsav*, an annual tribal festival organised by TRIFED, is a way to



draw the *adivasis* into the mainstream and give them a chance to display their unique range of products to a larger audience. It is also a platform for the tribal artisans and *Van Dhan* suppliers to forge links with other artisans and market drivers. For the residents of the capital city, the urban audience, it is an opportunity to learn more about the natural ways of the *adivasis* and imbibe their simplicity.

The beautiful handcrafted jewellery from the Northeast and of the inimitable Dokra style, fine weaves and textiles, silks, such as *Maheshwari*, *Eri*, *Karvathi Kathi* silk sarees, *Tassar* silks and *Pashmina* shawls; wares such as *moonj grass* basketry and blue pottery from Jaipur; paintings and a wide range of products will all be available at one place. The food and forest products, heritage textiles and naturals will all be on display and sale at the festival. The visitors can also sample *adi vyanjan*, simple yet tasty fares from tribal India such as *thapdi roti*, *madwa roti*, *litti chokha*, *mahua laddu*, *sabudana vada* and *adivasi laddu* to name a few.

(The Aadi Mahotsav is on till the February 15 from 11 am to 9 pm.)

PFC organises a technical workshop



Power Finance Corporation organised a technical workshop on *Kanthasth* (translation software based on memory) and Hindi e-tools at Urjanidhi, headquarters of PFC. The workshop was organised in association with the Department of Official Language, Ministry

of Home Affairs, Government of India. The workshop was inaugurated by Dr Sumeet Jerath, IAS, Secretary (Official Language), Dr Meenakshi Jolly, Joint Secretary (OL), Babu Lal Meena, Director (Technical), Rajesh Srivastava, Deputy Director

(OL & Technical) in presence of Ravinder Singh Dhillon, CMD, PFC along with Praveen Kumar Singh, Director (Commercial), PFC, Parminder Chopra, Director (Finance), PFC and R Murahari, Executive Director (HR, CSR, PR & Rajbhasha), PFC were present in the workshop.

During the workshop, R Murahari and Kewal Krishna, Senior Advisor, PFC, explained the importance of *Kanthasth* and Hindi e-tools respectively. Around 50 personnel from various departments of Government of India, banks and paramilitary forces benefitted from the technical workshop.

SDMC extends amnesty deadline

The Mayor of South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), Anamika, informed that in order to provide relief to the citizens, SDMC has extended the last date of two amnesty schemes for the payment of property tax up to February 28. She said that SDMC has decided to extend the date of general amnesty scheme for payment of outstanding dues for all types of properties without any interest or penalty of all the categories under its jurisdiction. Under this amnesty scheme, those property holders will become entitled for 100 per cent waiver of interest and penalty on making up-to-date payment of outstanding dues.

The chairman, Standing Committee, Rajdatt Gahlot, said that the last date of new scheme, that was earlier intro-

duced for the unauthorised colonies, is also extended upto February 28. Now the residents of the unauthorised colonies can avail this opportunity and deposit property tax for only two financial years i.e. 2019-20 and 2020-21. Their pending tax from year 2004 to 2019 will be completely waived off.

The leader of the house, Narendra Chawla said the scheme is for all such taxpayers who are not able to pay property tax due to interest and penalty. He urged all the citizens to file their property tax return on time and be a responsible citizen. The corporation acknowledges the support of its tax payers for timely payments, which enables SDMC to provide better civic facilities and keep serving the society.



LIC Pension and Group Schemes Vertical created a record by clocking more than one lakh crore premium income during the first 10 months of the current FY 2020-2021. This is first time ever any single vertical of the insurer has crossed such a gigantic premium income figure successively for two years. This phenomenal performance holds great significance since it came amid the mounting challenges and multiplying complexities owing to the pandemic fuelled economic headwinds.



Siddhartha Mohanty is new MD of LIC

Siddhartha Mohanty has taken charge as Managing Director of LIC of India. Prior to taking charge as Managing Director of LIC, he was the Managing Director and CEO of LIC Housing Finance Limited (LIC HFL), one of the largest housing finance companies in India. He was also LIC HFL's Chief Operating Officer. Mohanty started his career as a direct recruit officer with LIC of India in 1985 and has risen through the ranks to this senior position. Before joining LIC HFL, he was Executive Director-Legal with LIC of India.

In a career spanning over three decades in the corporation, Mohanty has made his mark in the areas of Marketing, HR, Investments and Legal. He has served as Chief of Investments (Monitoring), Regional Head of a marketing vertical of LIC's Western Zone spanning the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Goa. He was the Senior Divisional Manager in-charge of Raipur and Cuttack divisions of LIC of India.

His innovative style of working, people orientation, marketing acumen and technical expertise has resulted in success in each of his assignments.

Delhi govt releases GST report

The Delhi Government GST revenue collected in the month of January 2021 is ₹2015.18 crore of which SGST is ₹922.18 crore, IGST settlement is ₹562.67 crore and DVAT is ₹529.72 crore. In the previous month i.e. December, 2020 SGST collection was ₹7876.45 crore, IGST settlement was ₹7412.11 crore and DVAT collection was ₹7445.6 crore. The total number of GSTR-3B returns filed for the month of December up to January 31 is 6.13 lakh (80 per cent).

The SGST revenues during January 2021 are the highest for the FY 2020-21 and has touched the ₹922 crore mark. Delhi SGST revenues above ₹800 crore for a stretch of last four months and a steep increasing trend over this period are clear indicators of economic recovery post-pandemic.

Easier claim process under ABVKY

The *Atal Beemid Vyakti Kalyan Yojana* of ESI Corporation provides relief in form of cash compensation to insured persons in the contingency of their unemployment. Currently, under this scheme, 50 per cent of the average earning of the insured person is paid for maximum 90 days in case of his unemployment subject to certain contributory conditions.

It was brought to the notice of ESIC that in some cases employers have struck off their employees from the rolls a



few months after actually terminating them from service. During this period, ESI contribution was also not filed by the employers for these employees in the system. As the relief under *Atal Beemid Vyakti Kalyan Yojana* is available only in case of unemployment of the insured persons, such employees though terminated from service became ineligible for relief under this scheme.

The matter was reviewed and ESIC has now

decided that in cases where the employer has shown 'zero' contribution in respect of an employee for some months before exiting him from the system, the relief under ABVKY for such period of 'zero' contribution shall also be allowed. However, only those beneficiaries who have been exited from the rolls of the employer shall be considered for payment of relief under ABVKY subject to fulfillment of other eligibility conditions.



Govt. of Haryana

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Sh. Manohar Lal
Chief Minister, Haryana

REGISTRATION OPEN TILL 31ST MARCH, 2021

My job is to take back seat & help Virat: Rahane

PTI ■ CHENNAI

As captain, he was at the forefront of India's epic triumph in Australia, but Ajinkya Rahane would prefer to take a back seat while lending a helping hand to the returning Virat Kohli in the high-octane Test series against England.

Rahane, who led India to their greatest overseas Test series victory in Australia recently, also said that there is no room for complacency against a quality side like England in the series, starting here on Friday.

The upcoming matches will decide New Zealand's rival in the World Test Championship final at Lord's in June.

"See, my job is to take a back seat and help Virat. You know as a captain, there are too many things in captain's mind, so as a vice-captain, you have to visualise the situation, think about what can happen in the game and then if captain asks you some suggestions, you should be ready so my job is really easy," Rahane said at the virtual press conference.

A quiet person by nature, Rahane said that he will certainly speak when approached for inputs.

"I take a back seat (and) whenever required I'll go and tell him (Virat) or whenever he ask me about certain things, I will just go and tell him. For me, personally I generally take a back seat whenever I am the vice-captain."

The senior batsman also said that the Australian series win for him is a thing of past and there won't be any complacency when they take on England.

"Not at all, we know every series, every game is really important, especially in (this) Test championship. What happened in Sri Lanka, so basically we have to play good cricket, back our strengths and play as a team," Rahane said.

"I don't think we have to think too much about complacency or any other (thing), we know that what's our strength and we know how the Indian wickets (pitches) behave. We respect England team. They did well in Sri Lanka, so basically we have to play good cricket, back our strengths and play as a team," Rahane said.

He didn't want to dwell on India being favourites to reach the final of WTC.



"The WTC final is three-four (five) months from now. The focus should be on present series. New Zealand played really well and deserved to be in the final. For us, it will be about taking one game at a time." Asked if Axar Patel will be handed a Test debut, Rahane remained non-committal. "We will decide on the playing combination after tomorrow's training." But Rahane did drop a hint that Indians are bracing for a spin-friendly wicket at the Chepauk.

We don't share every trick of trades with foreign players in IPL: Ajinkya

PTI ■ CHENNAI

The top England players like Jos Buttler, Jofra Archer and Ben Stokes may all be IPL regulars but it doesn't mean that they always get a sneak peek into a top Indian player's mindset or strategies.

The IPL has made it easier for players across the globe to come closer and also exchange notes on each other's games while sharing the dressing room for two months.

How much will that help England during the upcoming series? Rahane was asked that question during the day.

"I think the Indian wickets will always suits any spinner, so yes we know we are playing in India, we back our strengths. But we have to wait and watch, how it (the pitch) behaves from day one, but in India there is always assistance for spinners."

Hardik Pandya had his first training session on the day and Rahane evaded questions whether the all-rounder was bowling at the nets.

"He is working really hard on his game, as a bowler and also as a batsman," was all he said.

He agreed that minor adjustments will be required as the action shifts from Australia to India but he is personally confident about his own batting.

"Yes, little bit adjustments needed, but at the moment, I have been batting really well. It is all about what the team requires in that particular situation and bat accordingly."

"For me, it is all about contribution for the team rather than thinking about my own performance or my own outcome. So I will give my 100 per cent, whatever the team requires in that certain situation and I feel really good about my batting."

"See, we definitely play in the IPL, but Test cricket and IPL are completely different. We do know how their bowlers bowl here, but length (that one bowls) is completely different in Test cricket from what they are in white ball (formats)," Rahane replied.

"What we do in IPL, it's not like we tell them all the things and I think that is very important. Yes, we have played a lot of cricket together, but when you represent the country, it is all about how best you can give individual and as a team," Rahane said. While he admitted that Archer and Stokes are key players for England, Rahane said one can't ignore the kind of balance that the opposition squad as a whole possesses.

"Ben Stokes and (Jofra) Archer, they are really good players. They did really well for England, so it is not about any individual."

I think it is all about a team, England team, they are a very balanced outfit which did really well recently against Sri Lanka.

"So for us, what is important is that we plan against all their guys and just play as a team here and back our strengths."



Pope in Eng squad for 1st Test, Crawley suffers freak wrist injury

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Middle-order batsman Ollie Pope was on Wednesday added to England's squad for the much-anticipated Test series opener against India even as young opener Zak Crawley sustained a freak wrist injury and missed the practice sessions here.

The 23-year-old Pope had suffered a dislocated shoulder while fielding in the final Test of the English summer against Pakistan last August which subsequently required surgery.

Pope took part in the team's training sessions here over the past two days after the end of the quarantine period.

Pope, who has been undergoing rehabilitation, travelled with the England team during its recent tour of Sri Lanka though he was not part of the squad. It helped him continue his rehabilitation with England's support staff and get acclimatised to conditions in the sub-continent.

If picked in the playing XI for the first Test starting on Friday, which is a high possibility, Pope is likely to bat at either number five or number six.

Crawley, on the other hand, suffered a right wrist injury on Tuesday after slipping outside his dressing room and is awaiting results of his scans.

"Zak Crawley did not train today at England's practice session in Chennai. He slipped outside the dressing room yesterday (Tuesday) and has injured his right wrist," the ECB said in a statement.

"We are waiting on the results of scans and will know more tomorrow, ahead of our final practice. There is nothing further to add at this stage."

AFP ■ MANCHESTER

Manchester United equalled the biggest win in Premier League history as they crushed nine-man Southampton 9-0, while Arsenal had two players sent off in their defeat at Wolves on Tuesday.

Rampant United scored four times in the first half after Southampton's teenage midfielder Alexandre Jankewitz was dismissed in the second minute at Old Trafford.

Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's side hit five more after the break, tying them with Leicester's 9-0 win at Southampton in 2019 and United's own 9-0 victory against Ipswich in 1995.

Aaron Wan-Bissaka's goal opened the floodgates and Marcus Rashford bagged United's second. Jan Bednarek's own goal made it three for the hosts before Edinson Cavani added the fourth.

The goals kept coming as Anthony Martial and Scott McTominay netted before Bruno Fernandes' penalty after Bednarek was sent off.

Martial and Daniel James scored in stoppage-time to complete an incredible display by United.

"We've been waiting for them to show the magic and it was a night for them to go and enjoy it. We've not had many times where we could just enjoy the second half," Solskjaer said. "You get lots of confidence from a performance like this, scoring goals is always good for a team."

MANCHESTER UNINETED

Red Devils score four in 1st half & five in 2nd against Southampton to equal biggest win record in Premier League history

9
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Southampton manager Ralph Hasenhuttl added: "It was a stupid foul from the young lad (Jankewitz) and kills everything. What can I say? It's horrible."

After the frustration of their shock defeat against Sheffield United and dour draw at Arsenal, the demolition job was a much-needed boost to their title bid.

United's first victory in three league games means they are behind leaders Manchester City only on goal difference.

Pep Guardiola's team have two games in hand, including one at Burnley on Wednesday.

ARSENAL WOE

A seven-game unbeaten league run had propelled Arsenal back into contention for a return to the Champions League next season and they could have moved to within five points of the top four after Nicolas Pepe's strike opened the scoring at Molineux.

But David Luiz's third red card in two seasons as an Arsenal player for clipping William Jose on the stroke of half-time turned the game around.

Ruben Neves converted the resulting penalty before Joao Moutinho's stunning long-range strike early in the second half put goal-shy Wolves in front.

Goalkeeper Bernd Leno then rounded off a miserable night for the visitors when he was also dismissed for handling outside his box.

A much-needed victory for Wolves ended an eight-game winless run and takes them 12 points clear of the relegation zone.

Nuno Espirito Santo's men also completed a first league double over Arsenal in 42 years.

Arsenal remain in 10th, eight points adrift of fourth-placed Leicester, having played a game more.

"The team was really on top of the game, we should have been three or four-nil up and after the red card the game changed completely," said Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta.

"I've seen it 10 times in different angles and I cannot tell you where the contact is."

West Brom lost 2-1 at bottom-of-the-table Sheffield United, while Crystal Palace won 2-1 at struggling Newcastle.

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CORRIGENDUM-1

E-Tender Notice No. ST 205044 Date: 03.02.2021
Following corrigendum in regard to E-Tender No. ST205044 due on 04.02.2021 is issued:-

E-Tender No	Brief Description	Existing Due Date	Revised Due date
ST205044	PVC Insulated PVC sheathed Armoured Railway Signalling Power Cable 2 Core x 25 sq. mm	04.02.2021	18.02.2021

In this tender Base month for calculation of PVC is December 2020.

Note: Full details of Tenders Corrigendum-I is available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>.

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

(A)	1.	82/CGM/SM(WC-5)/2020-21, Name of Work:- M/o Road (R/O Footpath and Central Verge from Sector-57, 55 and Sector-54, 22 Crossing to Sector-56 Gate No.1 on Kondli Road L.H.S. to R.H.S.), Noida. Cost- Rs. 80.37 Lacs
	2.	83/CGM/SM(WC-5)/2020-21, Name of Work:- Construction of Police Station in Sector-71 (Clo Boundary wall and Internal Development in Fire Station Sector-71), Noida Cost- Rs. 62.36 Lacs
	3.	86/CGM/SM(WC-5)/2020-21, Name of Work:- Strengthening of Road (Prepair of Drain, P/L C.C. Paver Blocks on Road Ptries and Covering of Drain in LIG Pocket A-5 & B-2 in Sector-71), Noida. Cost- Rs. 65.42 Lacs

Which can be uploaded by date 17.02.2021 upto 5.00 PM. Pre-qualification shall be opened/downloaded on date 18.02.2021 at 11.00 AM **Chief General Manager**
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Serena keeps rolling in Aus Open tune-up

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Serena Williams continued her impressive Australian Open preparations with a straight-set thrashing of Tsvetana Pironkova on Wednesday, as world No 3 Naomi Osaka and top-ranked Ashleigh Barty struggled.

Williams, 39, has been in belligerent form at the Yarra Valley Classic and overpowered the Bulgarian with a 6-1, 6-4 victory in 74 minutes.

"So far, so good. It's special to play here with what's going on in the world," said Williams, who only lost four games against Daria Gavrilova in her opener on Monday.

Williams, aiming for a record-equaling 24th Grand Slam title at the Australian Open, broke Pironkova first up and kept her foot on the gas with 25 winners and six aces.

The American will play compatriot Danielle Collins in the quarter-finals.

Osaka and Barty, however,



were pushed to the brink, but both avoided early exits at Melbourne Park.

Japan's Osaka was made to work hard against in-form Katie Boulter, but fought back for a 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory to reach the quarter-finals in the Gipsland Trophy.

The second-seeded Osaka, who won the Australian Open in 2019, raced to a 3-0 lead in the second set but the 24-year-old Briton would not fold and had break points to put the stanza back on serve.

Osaka upped her return game considerably to wrest back the momentum and level up the match before running away with the third set and sealing a last eight tie against Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu.

World No 1 Barty also had a fright in her match against Marie Bouzkova, but recovered from a second-set stutter to win 6-0, 4-6, 6-3.

Barty, hoping to break her country's 43-year singles title drought at the Australian Open starting next week, will face Shelby Rogers of the United States next.

Top seed and world No 2 Simona Halep downed Laura Siegemund in straight sets to set up a quarter-final against Russia's Ekaterina Alexandrova, who upset French Open champion Iga Swiatek 6-4, 6-2.

DIVN ADVANCES, BOPANNA OUT

India's Divij Sharan and his partner Igor Zelenay came from behind to beat their opponents but compatriot Rohan Bopanna exited the Murray River Open.

Sharan and his Slovakian partner erased a first-set deficit to beat Argentina's Guillermo Duran and Spanish Albert Ramos-Vinola 4-6, 6-3, 10-8 to move to the men's doubles pre-quarterfinals of the \$320,775 hard court event.

They will next take on French fifth seeds Jeremy Chardy and Fabrice Martin, who got a first round bye.

On the other hand, Bopanna and Denmark's Frederik Nielsen lost 4-6, 3-6 to Australian wild card pair of James Duckworth and Marc Polmans.

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER (Through e-tendering process only)

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Tender No.	Tender Particulars	Estimated cost in Rs.	Duration of work / Qty / Period	Tender cost	EMD in Rs.	Date and time for closing of online submission	Date & time of opening of tender
TENDER No.2021_MPPGC_124033	General annual overhauling of units, Equipments & their associated auxiliaries of U#2 of 3x105 MW THPS-I Sirmour	17.29 lakhs (inclusive of Taxes)	30 days	1,000/-	43,300/-	24 /02/2021 Upto 16:00 hrs.	26/02 /2021 from 12:00 hrs. onwards
TENDER No.2021_MPPGC_124034	General annual overhauling of units, equipments & their associated auxiliaries of 2x15MW BHPS- II Silpara.	24.66 lakhs (inclusive of Taxes)	50 days (25 days for each unit)	1,000/-	62,000/-	24 /02/2021 Upto 16:00 hrs.	26/02 /2021 from 13:00 hrs. onwards
TENDER No.2021_MPPGC_124035	General annual overhauling of units, equipments & their associated auxiliaries of 3x20 MW BHPS-III Deolond.	20.68 lakhs (inclusive of Taxes)	65 Days (U#1-25, U#2-20, U#3-20)	1,000/-	52,000/-	24 /02/2021 Upto 16:00 hrs.	26/02 /2021 from 14:00 hrs. onwards
TENDER No.2021_MPPGC_124036	General annual overhauling of units, equipments & their associated auxiliaries of 2x10MW BHPS- IV Jhina	09.74 lakhs (inclusive of Taxes)	40 days (20 days for each unit)	500/-	25,000/-	24 /02/2021 Upto 16:00 hrs.	26/02 /2021 from 15:00 hrs. onwards

It is mandatory for prospective bidders to get registration on web site www.mptenders.gov.in. by making on line registration fees payment. Further for detailed NIT, eligibility criteria, tender documents etc., please visit website www.mptenders.gov.in.

(S.K.Shukla)
Addl. Chief Engineer (THC),
MPPGCL, Sirmour

//Save Electricity