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China razes its tents at Pangong

LAC disengagement in progress, likely to be over by weekend

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Abiding by the agreement to disengage, India and China have started pulling back their troops and tanks from the friction points at the Pangong Tso (lake) in Eastern Ladakh. Videos and photographs released by the Indian Army here on Tuesday showed the Chinese rapidly removing tents and dismantling temporary structures built on 'Finger 4' and ridgelines along the Pangong lake.

If the current pace is maintained, the Indian and Chinese armies hopefully will completely withdraw and disengage from the stand-off sites at the lake by this weekend. The process started on February 10 and hailed as the first step in the long process to end the ten-month old tension at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh.

Once the withdrawal is complete from the southern and northern banks of the Pangong lake, the Corps Commanders of the two armies will jointly review the situation after 48 hours of the pullback, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had informed Parliament on February 11.

He said as per the agreement arrived at between the two sides after several rounds of military and diplomatic level talks, the pullback is synchronised and organised. He also asserted India did not concede



Indian and Chinese troops and tanks disengage from the banks of Pangong lake area in Eastern Ladakh where they had been deployed opposite each other for almost ten months now

anything while agreeing to the mutual disengagement.

The latest videos and photographs released by the Indian Army show the Indian and Chinese tanks disengaging from the south bank of Pangong lake area.

Videos also show Chinese forces dismantling tents and bunkers and carrying heavy load and walking on the mountainous terrain. A large number of Chinese soldiers are seen walking down a hillside to trucks which are waiting to take them away. Chinese earth-movers were seen restoring

the land in the area, thus removing military structures which had been set up.

According to the pact, the Chinese will keep its troop presence in north bank of Pangong Lake to the east of 'Finger 8'. The Indian troops will be based at their permanent base at Dhan Singh Thapa Post near 'Finger 3'.

The area in between will be no man's land for now with both sides agreeing not to patrol till some other issues are sorted out at the military and diplomatic levels.

Indicating the present positive mood, official said here the huge map engraved on the ground near 'Finger 5' area by the People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops was cleared by them. The map was seen in satellite images during the height of the stand-off.

Chinese troops built up heavy defences and structures between 'Finger 8' to 'Finger 4' including fortified gun positions on the ridgelines of 'Finger 4' overlooking the Indian positions.

At August end, amid actions on the South bank of Pangong Tso, Indian Army

also set up positions around the 'Finger 4' ridgelines overlooking PLA positions to gain tactical advantage.

Once disengagement at Pangong lake is complete, Corps Commander talks likely to be held next week will discuss the next phase which would focus on the friction points at Gogra and Hot Springs. The bigger issue of contention between the two sides will be Depsang, where Chinese troops have been blocking Indian Army patrols from patrolling up to the PPs 10 to 13.

4 cases of SA, 1 Brazil strains found in India

Ministry hopes new variants don't cause catastrophic condition in country

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After the detection of 123 cases of UK Covid-19 variants in India, four cases of South African and one of Brazil strain of SARS-CoV-2 have been found in the country.

These virus strains have been successfully isolated and cultured at ICMR-NIV-Pune, said the Union Health Ministry on Tuesday while pinning hopes these new variants do not cause catastrophic situations in the country.

"The vigil to contain this disease must continue," Dr VK Paul, member, NITI Aayog, said at a Press conference here.

In view of new detection, the Ministry is in discussion with the Civil Aviation Ministry to see if the strategy of controlling air traffic from the two nations, as was done following the detection of the UK variant, could be implemented here as well.

"Unlike the UK, flights do not come directly to India from Brazil and South Africa. These passengers mostly take transit routes from Gulf nations in order to reach India. So we have to see if the air traffic needs to be restricted. We are



in discussion with the Aviation Ministry on this," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said. The measures of testing, tracing, treatment and genome sequencing are likely to be followed to track the returnees from Brazil and South African countries who could possibly be carrying the mutants strains found there, he said.

"From the experience of the UK variant, we have learnt to conduct 100 per cent RT-PCR tests on all the returnees and their contacts if they found positive with the Covid-19. Genome sequencing of those testing positive as well as isolation and quarantine measures were also followed. We are also going to follow these to contain the spread from mutant strains emerging in SA and Brazil as well," Bhushan said.

The Ministry had earlier disclosed it has found 5 returnees from South Africa and Brazil infected with the variant found there.

ICMR Director General Prof Balram Bhargava said 192

Delhi records 94 new cases, lowest in over 9 months

New Delhi: Delhi recorded 94 fresh Covid-19 cases on Tuesday, the lowest in over nine months, while the positivity rate slipped to 0.17 per cent in the city, authorities said.

One fatality was also registered, taking the death toll due to the viral disease to 10,894 in the national Capital, according to the latest health bulletin issued by the Delhi Government.

CAPSULE

COURT EXTENDS POLICE CUSTODY OF DEEP SIDHU

New Delhi: A Delhi court on Tuesday extended by seven days the police custody of actor-activist Deep Sidhu in connection with the Red Fort violence on Republic Day during the farmers' tractor parade against the Centre's three new agril laws.

5 GET DEATH IN B'DESH FOR BLOGGER'S MURDER

Dhaka: A special anti-terrorism tribunal on Tuesday sentenced five members of a banned Islamist militant group, including a fugitive army Major, to death and a sixth man to life in prison for the killing of prominent Bangladeshi-American atheist blogger Avijit Roy in 2015.

WOMAN FORCED TO WALK WITH BOY ON SHOULDERS

Guna: A tribal woman was beaten up and forced to walk for three km carrying a teenage boy on her shoulders by her in-laws in Madhya Pradesh's Guna district, police said on Tuesday.

PM: FARM REFORMS WILL BENEFIT SMALL FARMERS

Lucknow: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday asserted that the new farm reforms will benefit small and marginal farmers.

Bedi removed as Puducherry Lt Gov; Cong loses majority

Narayanasamy Govt in minority as MLA resigns

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/PUDUCHERRY

In a sudden development, the Centre on Tuesday night removed Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Kiran Bedi from her post amid political turmoil following the resignation of Congress MLAs from the V Narayanasamy Government.

On Tuesday, the Narayanasamy Government lost its majority in the legislative Assembly after party MLA A John Kumar tendered his resignation to Speaker VP Sivakolunthu.

Bedi and Narayanasamy have been at loggerheads over a range of issues.

A brief communique issued by Rashtrapati Bhavan spokesman Ajay Kumar Singh said the President has directed that Bedi "shall cease to hold the office of the Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry".

President Ram Nath



Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy

Kovind gave the additional charge of the union territory to Telangana Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan "with effect from the date she assumes charge of her office, until regular arrangements for the office of Lieutenant-Governor of Puducherry are made".

The Opposition has demanded the resignation of Narayanasamy, saying his Government is in minority. However, Narayanasamy rejected the demand, claiming that his Government continued to enjoy "majority" in the Assembly, which is set to go for polls in the next few months.

With resignations of four

MLAs — two during the last two days — the strength of the Congress in the 33-member Assembly which includes three nominated MLAs has been reduced to 10 where the strength of the Assembly is 28.

Its ally DMK has three members and an independent also supports the Government. The Opposition has 14 MLAs.

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi is set to launch the Assembly poll campaign of the Congress Government in the union territory on Wednesday.

With the latest development, both the ruling Congress-DMK alliance and AIADMK-BJP alliance have 14 MLAs each. The Opposition comprises three nominated MLAs of the BJP, seven MLAs of NR Congress, and four of AIADMK.

Speculation is rife about Kumar quitting the ruling coalition following his recent meetings with BJP leaders in the national Capital a few days ahead of the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in neighbouring Tamil Nadu.

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48 dead as bus falls into MP canal

Bodies of 26 men, 21 women and a kid have been recovered so far

STAFF REPORTER ■ BHOPAL

Total 48 bodies were fished out of a 30-feet deep canal in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday after a bus plunged into it in the morning. Reports suggest more than 50 passengers were on board in the ill-fated bus having capacity of 32. It was on way to Satna from Sidhi.

Official sources said the rescue operation was still on. The bus carrying more than 50 passengers had fallen into a canal of Banganga dam near Patna village under Rampur Naikin police station of Sidhi district around 8.20 am.

IG Rewa Range Umesh Joga said, "A total of 48 bodies, including 26 men, 21 women and a kid have been recovered so far. Search operation is still going on." He further said seven persons had managed to come ashore by swimming.

The bus sunk completely and it took three hours for divers to locate it underneath water. Then it was pulled out using cranes, said sources.

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has expressed grief over the incident and sent Cabinet Ministers Tulsi



NDRF team carries out rescue operation after an overcrowded bus plunged into a canal in Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh on Tuesday

Silawat and Ramkhilawan Patel to the spot.

Tulsi said, "This incident is really unfortunate. I am very distressed and sad. Seven people have been rescued. Relief work is in progress. Bodies are being fished out of the canal. The Chief Minister paid homage to the departed souls

and prayed to God to grant them peace."

Chouhan informed that instructions have been given to provide immediate assistance of ₹5 lakh each to the families of the deceased. "We are with the families of the victims in this time of grief. My appeal is to be patient. I, the State

Government and the entire public is with you," Chief Minister Chouhan said and instructed Collector Sidhi to start all possible relief work. Instructions have also been given to immediately stop water from Bansagar dam, he added.

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Flash droughts to rise 7-fold by century end in India: Experts

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

At a time when India is struggling with the glacier-triggered flash floods in upper Himalayan regions, a recent study by the IIT Gandhinagar has predicted a 7-8-fold increase in the frequency of flash droughts towards the end of this century. It has blamed the concurrent occurrence of extremely dry and hot periods during monsoon and greenhouse gas emissions to the flash droughts in-waiting.

"This would pose a major risk to crop production due to soil moisture depletion and intra-seasonal monsoon variation," said the study "Anthropogenic warming and intraseasonal summer monsoon variability amplify the risk of future flash droughts in India", published in the journal Climate and Atmospheric

Science. Flash droughts are droughts that intensify more rapidly than normal, posing a risk to agriculture, ecosystems and water availability.

Researchers explained that while the conventional droughts take months and sometimes even years to develop to full intensity, flash droughts on the other hand develop at an unusually fast rate due to extreme weather conditions and persist for a few weeks to some months. Such droughts can be localised to a specific region or can become widespread and affect a large part of the country.

Researchers Vimal Mishra, Shanti Shawrup Mahto and Saran Adhar reached to this conclusion after investigating the causes of flash droughts in India between 1951 and 2016. Based on the findings, the

researchers predict an increase in the frequency of flash droughts. They pointed out the worst flash drought in the observed (1951-2016) climate occurred in 1979, affecting over 40 per cent of India.

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Rescue operations to continue till last victim is reached: NDRF commandant

Tapovan: Amid fading hopes of the survival of those who went missing after a glacier disaster in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district 10 days ago, NDRF Commandant PK Tiwari on Tuesday said search-and-rescue operations will go on in the flood-hit hydel project sites till the last victim is reached.

Bhagwat meets Mithun, actor scotches rumour of 2nd political innings

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh chief Mohan Bhagwat met veteran Bollywood actor Mithun Chakraborty at the latter's Malad residence in north Mumbai on Tuesday morning, sparking speculation about his return to politics in the run-up to the Bengal Assembly elections.

In a development that took everyone by surprise, Bhagwat reached the actor's bungalow in Malad's Madh area and spent close to two hours with Mithun and his family members.

A former All India Trinamool Congress (TMC) Rajya Sabha member, 69-year-old Mithun Da scotched intense speculation about his possible return to active politics more than four years after



he resigned as an MP in December, 2016.

Interacting with the waiting mediapersons outside his bungalow after seeing off Bhagwat to his car, Mithun said that he had a "spiritual relationship" with Bhagwat, whom he had met in Lucknow and Nagpur in the past, and said that there was no politics attached to their meeting as "Bhagwat-ji is very fond of my family and had promised to visit my place whenever he is in Mumbai".

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Rockets strike near US base in Iraq, killing 1, wounding 8

AP ■ BAGHDAD

Rockets struck outside an airport near where US forces are based in northern Iraq late on Monday, killing one US-led coalition contractor and wounding at least eight other people, Iraqi security and coalition officials said, sparking fears of new hostilities.

At least three rockets hit areas between the civilian Irbil international airport in the semi-autonomous Kurdish-run region and the nearby base hosting US troops at 9:30 pm. No one immediately claimed responsibility.

One civilian contractor with the coalition was killed and five others wounded, coalition spokesman US Army Col. Wayne Marotto said.

Detailed report on P8

Indian High Commission's open letter to UK MP seeks to allay farm stir concerns

PTI ■ LONDON

The Indian High Commission in London has issued an open letter to a British member of Parliament who has been vocal over the issue of farmer protests in India and related arrests of activists.

Claudia Webbe is the member of Parliament from the Opposition Labour Party for Leicester East, a significant British Indian constituency in eastern England.

She had endorsed an e-petition calling for a UK Government statement over the protests in India, after it crossed the 100,000 signatures threshold to be considered for a debate in the Westminster Hall of the House of

Commons. Most recently, she used her social media to demand the release of activists arrested in India in the "toolkit" case.

The Indian mission responded with an open letter on Monday evening, inviting her to convey any apprehensions on behalf of the British citizens of her constituency to the High Commission directly.

"We would have been able to comprehensively and in detail provide clarifications to assuage the concerns of your constituents with regard to the recent path-breaking Indian Farm Laws against which a small section of India's farming community has been protesting," reads the letter.

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Kejriwal lists AAP achievements on Govt's 1st anniversary

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Every citizen of Delhi has worked along with the Delhi Government during the Covid-19 pandemic to contain life-threatening Coronavirus and the Delhi Government's steps including home isolation model, setting up of the first plasma bank and providing oximeter are being discussed across the world, Kejriwal said while sharing a message for the citizens of Delhi on the occasion of the

completion of one year of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) ruled Delhi Government.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said, "The Delhi Government ensured food for all during the COVID-19 pandemic and we also distributed free ration to all during the pandemic.

The Delhi Government also arranged free transport for the migrant labourers who were stuck in Delhi. Amid all these limitations the AAP government maintained free elec-



tricity and water schemes." "This government is of two Crore citizens of Delhi which works 24x7 for seven days for the development of every citizen. I can assure you that this government will continue this work. I only want your cooperation and your blessings. With your cooperation and blessings, I will continue my service to every citizen of Delhi," he said.

Kejriwal said that the Delhi government's work on home isolation, plasma banks and

oximeters against Corona is being discussed all over the world. "The Delhi government fed millions of people during the lockdown, distributed free ration and arranged transportation for trapped migrant labourers to their home. We continued the free electricity and water scheme amidst all the challenges," he said.

The Delhi Chief Minister said that the government school students made all of us proud by scoring 98 percent results in the board examina-

tion. "Significantly the Delhi government also came up with a remarkable solution to the stubble burning problem for the farmers. Stubble burning is the key reason behind air pollution in Delhi. But now the Delhi farmers do not burn stubble anymore," he said.

"One year back today you all gave your son another opportunity to serve everyone. It has been a very tough year but all the citizens of Delhi have worked together. All

of us together have made Delhi a model of success in the world. It is a government of two crores Delhiites, who work for 24 hours to make the life of every citizen easier and will continue to do so," he added.

The chief minister further said, "During these six years of development now every child of Delhi is getting a quality education. Today every patient of Delhi is getting quality and affordable healthcare. Now Delhi gets 24 hours of free electricity.

Delhi Police writes to Zoom, seeks details of those who attended toolkit meeting

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Police has written to video conferencing platform Zoom seeking details of those who participated in the January 11 meeting organised allegedly by a pro-Khalistani group to prepare a protest toolkit backing the farmers' agitation.

Police alleged that Mumbai lawyer Nikita Jacob and Pune engineer Shantanu were among the around 70 people who had attended the meeting through Zoom app, days before the Republic Day violence in the national capital that left over 500 police personnel injured and one protester dead.

Meanwhile, the Delhi Police Commissioner S N Shrivastava said that the arrest of climate activist Disha Ravi was made in accordance with law which doesn't differentiate between a 22-year-old or 50-year-old.

Talking to reporters at an event here, Shrivastava said it is wrong when people say that there were lapses in the arrest of the 22-year-old activist.

Ravi was arrested from

Bengaluru on Saturday in connection with a protest toolkit backing the farmers' agitation. "Disha Ravi's arrest has been made in accordance with law which doesn't differentiate between a 22-year-old or a 50-year-old," the Delhi Police chief said.

"The Delhi Police has written to video conferencing app Zoom seeking details of participants who attended the meeting on January 11," the official said.

On Monday, Prem Nath, the Joint Commissioner of Police, Cyber, alleged that the e-mail account created by Shantanu is the owner of this Google document.

"Pro-Khalistani group Poetic Justice Foundation (PJF) founder Mo Dhalwal had contacted them (Jacob and Shantanu) through a Canada-based woman named Punit," he said. "Nikita and Shantanu had on January 11 attended a Zoom meeting organized by PJF in which modalities were decided to create the 'toolkit' titled 'Global Farmer Strike' and 'Global Day of Action, 26 January'," said the Joint CP.

Govt aims to clean Yamuna in 3 years, claims Jain

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

After containing the coronavirus outbreak, the Delhi Government will now aim to clean the Yamuna River in three years by working day and night, said Delhi Health Minister Satyendar Jain on the completion of one year of the Delhi Government.

Jain said that the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has given clear instructions to complete the clean Yamuna project as soon as possible and we are working day and night for this.

"The CM asked us to complete this clean Yamuna project

within five years, out of which one year has already been exhausted. But now we will clean it up before five years i.e. three years from now. Many people who have been running the government for a long time think that it is impossible but we will make it happen. After a year we will show you the status of the clean Yamuna project. We will clean the River and set an example to the world," he said.

The minister also said that 13,66,000 people got zero water bills during the last year and 73 per cent of people got zero electricity bills during Coronavirus.

"We are pushing for Delhi's Electric-Vehicle policy to minimize the vehicular pollution in Delhi. We are also setting up 100 charging stations where 500 charging points will be made. These charging points will facilitate a person to charge its vehicle in case it gets discharged. Delhi's pollution has gone down extensively except November and December from the time our government has formed," he said.

Talking about the Delhi Government's policy for its remaining term of four years, Jain said, "Everyone is appreciating the Delhi Government

for its policies. Nobody believed us when we promised to provide 24x7 electricity but today, the Delhi government is providing 24x7 electricity to the people of Delhi.

"The world has never seen such a disaster like Coronavirus after the 1918 Spanish Flu. After almost 102 years such a disaster has taken place, which we know as Coronavirus pandemic. The Delhi Government has firmly fought the war with Corona. People of Delhi are happy that they have chosen the Delhi Government for the second term. We have provided 37 people with aid of ₹1 Cr,

which includes nine corona warriors, 19 Delhi police personnel, three army and BSF personnel," he added.

"The government also provided Pulse Oximeters to everybody so that they can monitor their oxygen levels from time to time and shift to the hospital in case their oxygen level drops. We had almost 7,000 vacant beds at the time when Delhi reported 8,600 patients in one day while the roads in New York were flooded with patients when the cases were at 5,600 cases per day," he said.

Talking about the develop-

ment and progress during Covid pandemic, he said "Almost a year is about to end and people who were getting free electricity are getting it free and those who were getting at the half rates continued to get on half rates. We have provided pension benefits to all. We have also given the aid of ₹5000 per person to 156000 auto and driver taxi drivers in Delhi. 44,000 construction workers were given ₹10000 per person. Delhi Government has fought at all fronts to provide better services to the people," he said.

Indian High...

From Page 1

"It is emphasised that the reforms, intended to protect and empower farmers in India are based on inputs from experts and recommendations by Committees that have analysed the specific challenges of the agricultural sector in India over the last 20 years. "The Farm Acts were duly discussed and debated in the Parliament of India and their benefits have started reaching more than 100 million small farmers instantly. Since the enactment of these reforms, discussions have been held with farmers and other stakeholders on their efficient implementation," it adds.

The letter states that the detailed information is being shared with her to dispel any misgivings with regard to the objectives of the reforms, the ability of those having reservations to protest peacefully and the willingness of the

government of India to address all concerns in a manner most acceptable to the protesting farmers' unions.

"The efforts continue - but government of India is more than aware of efforts by vested interests abroad to fuel the protests through misinformation and incendiary assertions that are not helpful in progressing the dialogue between the protesters and government or addressing the issues through the democratic processes that our people have traditionally relied on," it notes.

"High Commission of India would, therefore, reiterate its offer that your constituents - British citizens having family ties or business linkages with the agricultural sector in India - would be most welcome to address their concerns to the High Commission of India through their representatives, after duly studying the clarifications issued by our mission on our

website and through social media," it adds.

The letter reiterates that farmers participating in the protest rallies have been treated with "utmost respect and restraint" by the government and security forces - "more than may have been the case in similar situations elsewhere in the world".

The letter is also appended with a factsheet laying out further details and the consultations and multiple rounds of talks held in relation to the new agricultural reforms.

Thousands of farmers, mainly from Punjab and Haryana, have been camping at several Delhi border points since November last year, demanding the government to repeal three farm laws and provide them legal guarantee of minimum support price (MSP) for their crops.

Multiple rounds of talks between the government and farmer unions have not been able to resolve the deadlock.

everyone to Nagpur. That's all we discussed. He had breakfast. There was no rajneeti (politics), nothing."

When journalists persisted and posted queries about his decision to quit politics more than four years ago, Mithun Da laughed and quipped: "You are linking (this) because of the (West Bengal) elections... If there were no elections, you wouldn't have!"

Notwithstanding Mithun Da's assertions to the contrary, the actor's meeting with RSS chief should be seen in the context of the forthcoming high-stake Assembly elections in West Bengal, where the BJP is going full throttle to unseat the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC from power.

The BJP has already wooed several senior and middle-rung TMC leaders to its fold in the run-up to the Assembly polls. However, the fact remains the BJP does not have a formidable Bengali face to take on Mamata Banerjee in the elections.

It may be recalled that Mithun Da had come to be associated with the TMC after he was nominated for the RS polls held on February 7, 2014. He went on to win the Rajya Sabha polls. He, however, resigned from Rajya Sabha on December 26, 2016 and quit politics. Tuesday's was not the first meeting between Bhagwat and Mithun Da. Mithun had visited the RSS headquarters in Nagpur in 2019. Subsequently, the actor had met the RSS chief in Lucknow in October last year.

Bedi...

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The exits came as an embarrassment for the grand old party as Rahul has scheduled visit to Puducherry on Wednesday to draw up an election strategy, his first visit since to the UT since the party came to power. Kumar was considered close to Narayanasamy. He had won the 2016 Assembly polls from Nellithope constituency and vacated the seat for Narayanasamy. Kumar, later, won the Kamaraj Nagar byelection in 2019.

Kumar's resignation comes a day after former health minister Malladi Krishna Rao, who quit the Cabinet earlier, posted his resignation letter on Twitter. AICC sources said the there will be no imminent dangers to the Narayanasamy Government and that efforts are on to rope in faction to provide stability to the Government. "BJP politics is just to go overboard the people's mandate and they have made a mockery of the system. Now when polls are round the corner the dirty games of breaking parties and horse trading has begun. We will sail through," said AICC leader.

Work on how to stop brain drain: Sisodia to varsities

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The expansion of universities is crucial to improve higher education and urged these institutions to reflect on how to stop 'brain drain', said Sisodia in a conclusive two-day meeting deliberated upon the theme of 'holistic and multidisciplinary education with technology'.

The deputy chief minister stressed upon the difference between education and human resource development. Addressing the panellists of the meet, he appreciated NEP 2020's policy stance of renaming Human Resource Development Ministry as Education Ministry. "Human Resource Development is a mere tool of education but it is not the foundation of education," he said.

The role and responsibility of an education person is to ensure that their children are not considered merely as tools

or instruments for the world but as thriving human beings, he said.

Sisodia on Tuesday concluded the North Zone Vice Chancellor's Meet organized by Association of Indian Universities and hosted by Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University.

Talking about higher education in the post-COVID and post-NEP world, Sisodia said that there are certain challenges that Universities and educators alike face in the current landscape of Indian education. "The first challenge pertained to the challenge of quantity. "We introduced several missions and laws such as Right to Education. We ensured that all children attend school. We created a bumper crop of school graduates. But then the child asks - Where should I go? What should I do now? We do not have answers."

Sisodia urged Universities to think out of the box to find solutions for the large quantities and lack of enough space for the students in higher education. Pointing towards the second challenge of quality, Sisodia alluded to fixing minimum standards for quality education. "The bottom line is that we can say that students who graduate from our universities and colleges stand at some level of achievement. We cannot decide the maximum success a child can reach, but we can decide the minimum limits for quality education. We should guarantee minimum levels of education"

Sisodia exhorted the Universities to establish their name in the domains of research and innovation. He urged the Vice Chancellors of universities to talk about research and entrepreneurship in your convocation that after graduating our students created jobs for 2000 people.

4 cases of SA...

From Page 1

About the SA variant, better known as B.1.351, Bharagava said its cases were reported in January in four returnees from African countries. "One case was found in a person who returned from Angola, one from Tanzania and rest from persons who returned from South Africa," he said.

The SA variant has spread

to 44 countries and the National Institute of Virology, Pune is attempting to isolate and culture the mutated virus here. Meanwhile, the Brazilian variant or P.1 lineage, has been found in the first week of February in a person who returned from the South American country recently.

The strain has spread to 15 countries, however, it has been successfully isolated and cultured at the NIV in India.

Giving more details on the

variants, Bhargava said the SA and Brazilian variants are different from the UK and probably more potent than the former. "The large mutations in the UK variant were found in the spike protein while in SA and Brazil variants, multiple mutations have been found in the receptor-binding domain of the spike protein," he said.

"We have seen that both variants (SA and Brazilian) are able to enter lungs easily since they can easily bind with ACE

2 receptors found in the organ. This property makes the Brazilian and SA variant more potent than the UK one," he said.

While he noted that no mortality has been reported so far in the cases who contracted the UK variant as well as those who are infected by the variants from South Africa and Brazil, Bhargava also said that the efficacy of vaccines are to be examined on the latter ones.

Flash droughts to rise 7-fold...

From Page 1

"The frequency of concurrent hot and dry extremes is projected to rise by about five-fold, causing an approximately seven-fold increase in flash droughts like 1979 by the end of the 21st century.

"The increased risk of flash droughts in the future is attributed to intraseasonal variability of the summer monsoon rainfall and anthropogenic warming, which can have deleterious implications for crop production, irrigation demands, and groundwater abstraction in India," they said.

Flash droughts can be identified either by monitoring

changes in precipitation, evapotranspiration, or soil moisture. The researchers had used a hydrology model to simulate soil moisture patterns across the country to identify the duration and extent of flash droughts.

With these and among other criteria, the researchers considered flash droughts with a minimum duration of 15 days and a maximum duration of 90 days and identified 15 flash drought events in the past. Of these, the flash drought in the year 1979 that affected 40% of the country was observed to be the most severe.

Mishra, Associate

Professor of Civil Engineering, IIT Gandhinagar, and lead author of the study, recalled that in 1979, around 125 days after the onset of the monsoon season, the soil moisture was very high. But within 10 days, the soil moisture dropped very quickly as there was a dry spell and temperatures were high, with an average increase of more than 2 degrees centigrade.

"Normally, conventional droughts take months to build up. But flash droughts can occur during the monsoon season when there are long breaks in the monsoon and the temperature is high. Soil moisture dries within 1-2 weeks, causing flash droughts," he said

in the study.

To gain an understanding of how flash droughts would occur in future climates, the researchers used the same model but fed data from a global climate model, Community Earth System Model, that provides temperature and precipitation data for the year 1900-2100, to estimate soil moisture.

The influence of anthropogenic events such as greenhouse emissions, land use-land cover change and industrial aerosols were also investigated. The study found that greenhouse emissions will significantly increase the frequency of extremely hot and dry periods, which are the main drivers of flash droughts.

strike that killed top Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani and powerful Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis last year.

Trump had said the death of a U.S. Contractor would be a red line and provoked U.S. Escalation in Iraq. The December 2019 killing of a U.S. Civilian contractor in a rocket attack in Kirkuk sparked a tit-for-tat fight on Iraqi soil that brought the country to the brink of a proxy war. US Forces have been significantly reduced in Iraq to 2,500 personnel and no longer partake in combat missions with Iraqi forces in ongoing operations against the Islamic State group.

48 dead...

From Page 1

Besides, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 each to those seriously injured.

The Madhya Pradesh Government has cancelled the 'grih pravesh' ceremony to be attended virtually by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in view of the Tuesday's Sidhi bus accident in which many passengers are feared drowned.

The cancellation of the event, which was scheduled to start at 11 am at Minto Hall in Bhopal, was announced by Chouhan after he reached the venue. Shah was scheduled to take part via video conferencing in this programme for the beneficiaries of over one lakh houses constructed in Madhya Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). The CM also cancelled the scheduled Cabinet meeting at State Mantralaya.

DELHI GOVERNMENT SETS A PRECEDENT IN COVID MANAGEMENT

Several exemplary initiatives and steps by the Delhi government made the fight against Corona in Delhi easier

There have been various instances of good governance and great governments throughout history. But such recognition does not come without its own trials and tribulations. They are especially tested on their ability and skill in handling disasters or challenges faced by the countries across the world. Perhaps the most formidable challenge to humanity at present is Coronavirus, which has impacted the entire world. There are very few governments in the world that have faced this unprecedented crisis with great skill, sincerity and patience. While the impact and fear of this pandemic is diminishing today, India is being praised all over the world for its handling of the pandemic. And in this concerted effort of the nation, the contribution of Delhi government is unforgettable. The sudden lockdown announced in the last week of March, not only impacted the health sector, but also challenged the governments on all fronts of everyday life. The attention of the entire country and the world was focused on Delhi, which with its dense population of nearly 2 crore people was especially vulnerable to the pandemic. In this dire situation, the Arvind Kejriwal led Delhi government courageously confronted and skillfully handled the combined onslaught of challenges like Coronavirus transmission, migration, hunger, unemployment and education. Each new initiative and scheme launched by the Delhi government to combat each challenge during lockdown became a precedent for the entire world. As the impact of the pandemic first began being felt in Delhi, the government started implementing ideas for the poor and destitute. The Delhi government immediately began providing free cooked food to nearly a million people during the lockdown. Not only this, the Kejriwal led government distributed dry rations free of charge, to millions of people trapped



within the confines of their homes during lockdown. For those who were impoverished but did not have ration cards, a new scheme was launched to register them online so that they could avail free ration. Financial assistance was provided to those employed in the public transportation sector as well as to construction workers. The biggest challenge was handling the mass migration of workers from Delhi. People come to Delhi to work from all over the country and with transportation closed, it became an especially onerous task to send them back to their homes. The entire nation was looking towards Delhi, but the earnestness and systematic manner with which the Delhi government overcame this challenge sets a wonderful example for good governance. In times of crisis, the public looked up to the government, and Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal must be applauded as he never let the public feel disheartened during the pandemic. Perhaps this is the reason that in that era of great turmoil, when news of tragedy and misery was pouring in from across the country, the Delhi Government was gearing up to meet the challenges ahead.

The Delhi government skillfully handled the combined onslaught of challenges like coronavirus transmission, migration, hunger, unemployment and education

Delhi has conducted the highest number of COVID testing, equivalent to more than half the population of Delhi being tested

This is an excellent illustration of the Delhi government's far-sightedness. While even the governments of developed countries were unable to comprehend how to fight against Corona, the Delhi government launched several brilliant and effective initiatives during this period. The country's largest COVID care center was established in the capital. Many new hospitals were also opened in this period. Delhi was the first in the country to successfully deploy home isolation. The help of various agencies was taken to

ensure that such patients living in their homes did not have any problem with doctors or other medical facilities. Free oximeters were also provided to each patient. Delhi's home isolation model even received tremendous praise from the Central government. Similarly, when the rest of the governments were in a dilemma about plasma therapy, the Delhi government started it immediately after getting assurances from doctors and experts. Plasma banks were also established. There was a time when an entire area was sealed off whenever a patient was infected. Delhi demonstrated for the first time that it is unnecessary to seal the entire city for fear of infection. In November, a record eight and a half thousand patients were found infected on a single day. But the Delhi government overcame this critical situation very efficiently. First, the speed of testing was accelerated. Presently, 1 crore tests have been conducted in Delhi which is equivalent to more than half the population of the state. It is the highest in the country. The 4-T measures initiated by Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal were also later adopted in other states.



LAUNCH OF 'SWITCH DELHI' CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Delhi government is amongst the first state governments in India to notify an electric vehicle policy

The Delhi government's focus has been on establishing connectivity in every part of Delhi along with bringing an environment-friendly transport system. To fulfill this, Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government became one of the first state governments to draft an ambitious Electric Vehicle Policy and then in August 2020 the government notified this. The Delhi government launched the Electric Vehicle Policy under which it aims to waive off the registration fee, road tax, and provides an incentive of upto 1.5 lakh for new cars. Through this policy, the government aims to generate employment to give a boost to Delhi's economy and reduce pollution levels in the national capital. The Delhi EV policy envisages that 25% of all new vehicle registrations should be Battery Electric Vehicles (BEVs) by 2024. Under this policy, the Delhi government will give an incentive of up to Rs 30,000 for two-wheelers, autos, e-rickshaws and freight vehicles while for cars, it will provide an incentive of up to Rs 1.5 lakh. To expedite electric vehicle adoption, CM Arvind Kejriwal launched 'Switch Delhi' campaign on February 5. The CM appealed to people to buy electric vehicles to combat pollution in the city. The Delhi

government has also planned to hire only electric vehicles for governmental purposes in the next six months. The Delhi government asked delivery chains and big companies, resident welfare associations, market associations, malls and cinema halls to promote electric vehicles and set up charging stations at their premises. Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal also appealed to the

clean and pollution-free. Appeal was made to the people to take part in the campaign to promote the replacement of polluting petrol and diesel vehicles with electric vehicles and make a contribution towards a pollution-free Delhi. The Delhi government has been combating the menace of air pollution through multiple measures. In the first week of

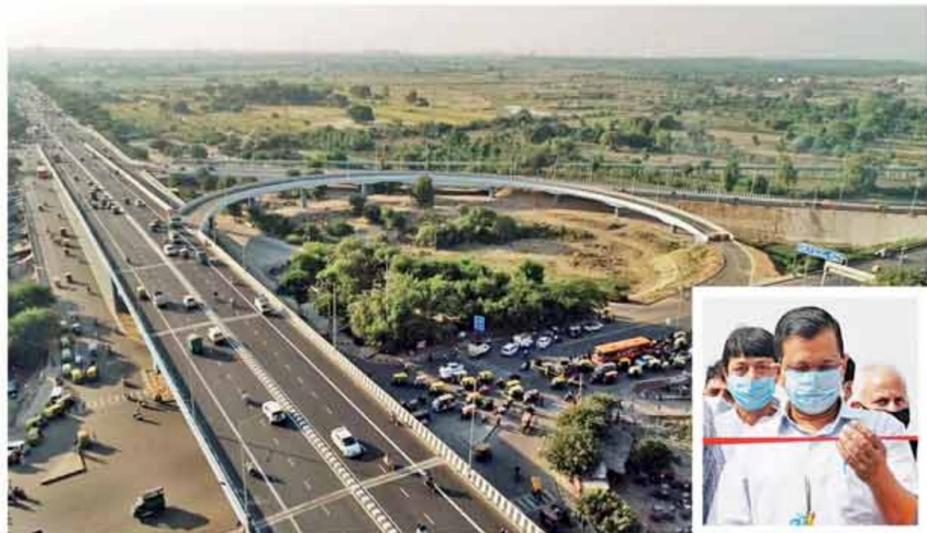
two-thirds of all vehicles in Delhi and cause maximum pollution. Incentives up to Rs 30,000 can be availed upon the purchase of two-wheelers listed under the policy along with scrapping incentives. Under Delhi's EV policy, 23 two-wheeler models are available and eligible for purchase and scrapping incentives across seven manufacturers. By switching to electric two-wheelers which have very low operating costs, an individual can make an annual saving of approximately Rs 22,000 as compared to using petrol scooter and Rs 20,000 as compared to a petrol bike. An average electric two-wheeler provides a lifetime savings of 1.98 tonnes of carbon emissions as compared to an average petrol two-wheeler, which is equivalent to planting eleven trees. The Delhi government has launched social media handles for its latest campaign 'Switch Delhi'. The DDC will be leading the social media outreach programme for the campaign on various social media platforms like on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn and Instagram, said an official statement. This will help the Delhi government to better connect with the citizens of Delhi.

CM Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi government asked delivery chains and big companies, resident welfare associations, market associations, malls and cinema halls to promote electric vehicles and set up charging stations at their premises

In the 'Switch Delhi' campaign, awareness will be created about the benefits of electric vehicles and how it can contribute to making Delhi clean and pollution-free

youth to buy an electric vehicle as their first vehicle. He appealed to people to make the campaign a mass movement. The Delhi government's electric vehicle policy is being hailed as one of the best policies in the world. Through the 'Switch Delhi' campaign, awareness will be created about the benefits of electric vehicles and how it can contribute to making Delhi

the 'Switch Delhi' campaign – which was launched by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal to promote electric vehicles (EV) in the city – the government will focus on outreach regarding the two-wheeler segment including electric bikes and e-scooters to accelerate its adoption. Delhi's EV Policy especially focuses on incentivizing the purchase of two-wheelers, which comprise



To make commuting of residents of Delhi smooth and faster, the Delhi government led by Arvind Kejriwal has built various new flyovers and underpasses across the capital which were completed even before scheduled time. The government in a record time completed two flyovers (Shastri Park and Seelampur) and both have been completed at Rs 250 crore, a cost less than the sanctioned cost of Rs 303 crore, saving Rs 53 crores. The construction of these flyovers has brought relief to around 1.5 lakh vehicle owners daily. The two flyovers will significantly reduce travel time between Shahdara in East Delhi to Kashmere Gate Interstate Bus Terminus. The upcoming Ashram underpass

DELHI GOVERNMENT SAVES CRORES IN BUILDING OF FLYOVERS

To make commuting of Delhi residents faster, the Delhi government has built new flyovers and underpasses in record time

estimated at Rs 78 crores will also be completed in a year's time. The elevated corridor of Rao Tula Ram flyover, built on the outer ring road, will help decongest the area and prove a boon for people commuting towards the IGI airport from south Delhi and Noida.

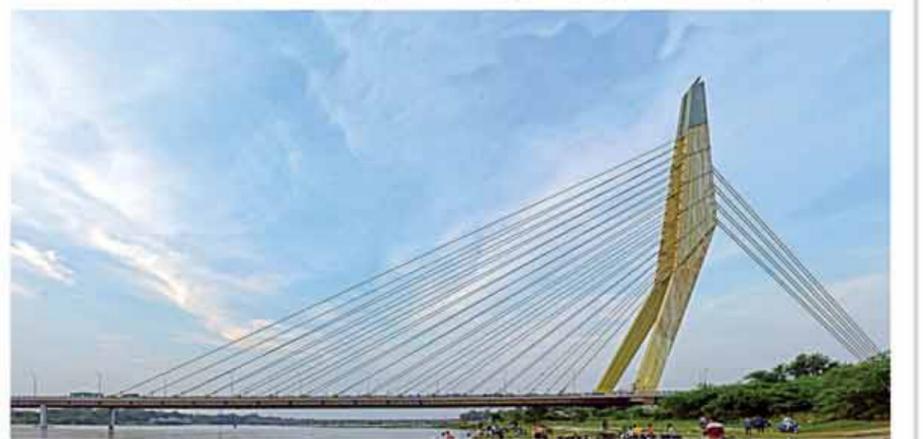


Delhi government led by CM Arvind Kejriwal completed two flyovers (Shastri Park and Seelampur) in record time and saved Rs 53 crores in the construction cost

The two flyovers will significantly reduce travel time between Shahdara in East Delhi to Kashmere Gate Interstate Bus Terminus (ISBT)

Delhi becomes the only Indian city to get featured in the list of the World's Best Cities for 2021

Under Arvind Kejriwal, Delhi has experienced rapid development in the past 6 years



Delhi got featured in the list of World's Best Cities for 2021 making our Delhi the only Indian city to rank among the 100 best cities across the world. Delhi, the national capital of India, secured the 62nd position in this prestigious list. Last year, Delhi was at the 81st position and has significantly improved its ranking this year. The continuous development work of CM Arvind Kejriwal has brought only great news for the citizens of Delhi. The ranking was done by Resonance Consultancy Limited which is based out of Vancouver and specialises in destination development, branding, marketing, design, tourism, data, and travel reports. Some of the other cities that have been featured in the list include Amsterdam, Rome, Washington DC, Toronto, Prague, and St Petersburg. CM Arvind Kejriwal said, "Such good news for all Dilliwalas. All dilli walas have worked so hard in the last six

Under the leadership of CM Kejriwal, Delhi has featured in the list of World's Best Cities for 2021 and is the only Indian city to rank among the 100 best cities across the world

Delhi is the only Indian city to feature on the list, acquiring 62nd position in the list of World's Best Cities for 2021

years to make it happen. The world is noticing the positive changes happening in Delhi." Deputy Chief Minister Shri Manish Sisodia said, "Congratulations to all the proud people of Delhi and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal for the leadership. Our beloved Delhi is ranked 62

in World's Best cities. The only Indian city in the list. There is a significant improvement from the past ranking i.e. 81." This ranking has given the national capital 62nd position, making it the only Indian city to feature in the list. Reportedly, the ranks have been given to 100 cities from across the world with a population of over 10 lakh. The ranking was based on the basis of diverse factors, including online hashtags, number of check-ins, diversity, tourist attractions, weather and more. It also included factors like Covid-19 infections in July, income incongruity and unemployment. While Rome (Italy), Chicago (United States), Toronto (Canada), San Francisco (USA), Amsterdam (Netherlands), Berlin (Germany), Prague (Czech Republic) and Washington DC (United States) took the new few spots, Delhi in India was ranked 62 on the list, the only Indian city to have been featured on the list.

MONEY LAUNDERING CASE

Amnesty International's ₹17-cr deposit attached

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Tuesday said it has attached over ₹ 17 crore bank deposits in connection with its money laundering case against two entities of Amnesty International (India), the global human rights watchdog.

The agency said in a statement that a provisional order has been issued under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) "attaching bank accounts of Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd (AIPL) and Indians for Amnesty International Trust (AIT)".

It said "both the entities have acquired the proceeds of crime and layered the same in the form of various movable properties. The order involves attachment of movable properties worth of Rs 17.66 crore being proceeds of crime."

This money laundering case of the ED is based on a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) FIR filed against AIPL, AIT, Amnesty International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT) and Amnesty International South Asia Foundation (AISAF) that was filed under various sections of the Foreign Contribution



Regulation Act (FCRA) and the Indian Penal Code (120-B which denotes criminal conspiracy).

"Amnesty International India Foundation Trust (AIIFT) had been granted permission under the FCRA during 2011-12 for receiving foreign contribution from the Amnesty International UK," it said.

However, the statement said the same was cancelled on the basis of the "adverse" inputs received.

"Since permission/registration has been denied to the said entity on the basis of adverse inputs received from security agencies during the year 2011-12, AIPL and AIT were formed in the year 2013-14 and 2012-13, respectively to escape the FCRA route and carried out NGO activities in the guise of service export and FDI," the agency alleged.

A probe found, the ED said, that upon cancellation of the FCRA licence by the Union government, Amnesty International India Foundation Trust and Amnesty entities adopted "new method" to receive money from abroad. The agency said Amnesty International, UK sent Rs 51.72 crore to AIPL in the guise of export of services and the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). "For export proceeds/advances to Amnesty International UK there was no documentary proof, such as invoices and copies of agreement between AIPL and Amnesty International UK, has been furnished by AIPL to the authorised dealer (AD) banks."

"It is prima facie found that Amnesty International India Pvt Ltd and others have obtained foreign remittances to the tune of Rs 51.72 crore in the guise of export of services and the FDI from Amnesty International (UK) whose source is the donations from individual donors," the ED alleged.

The agency has earlier attached some properties in this case and the total attachment value now stands at Rs 19.54 crore.

ED chargesheets Hooda for money laundering in industrial plot scam

Four retired IAS officers and some others also named

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The ED has filed a chargesheet against former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, four retired IAS officers and some others in a money-laundering case linked to alleged irregularities in the allocation of over a dozen industrial plots worth more than Rs 30 crore in the Panchkula area in 2013, officials said on Tuesday.

The central probe agency claimed that "worthy applicants were driven out of merit and applicants who were closely connected to Hooda, in terms of his personal capacity and also in terms of the political party he belongs to, were allotted these plots."

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) said the plots were allocated to "acquaintances of the then CM (Hooda)".

The Haryana Vigilance Bureau booked a case in 2015 to probe these alleged irregularities and subsequently, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the ED filed their respective cases.

The agency has named Hooda, retired IAS officers Dharam Pal Singh Nagal (the then chief administrator of the



The ED said it was probe during its probe "that the price fixed for the subject allotment were kept four-five times below the circle rate and seven-eight times (higher than) the market rate"

Haryana Urban Development Authority or HUDA), Surjit Singh (the then administrator of HUDA), Subhash Chandra Kansal (former chief controller of finance, HUDA), Raninder Kumar Solanki (former zonal administrator, Faridabad zone of HUDA), besides Bharat Bhushan Taneja (the then superintendent, HUDA) and all the 14 allottees and beneficiaries of the industrial plots in the chargesheet or the prosecution complaint.

The complaint, the ED said, has been filed under various sections of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) before a special court in Panchkula.

The agency said its probe found that as "a result of a criminal conspiracy, the then chief minister of Haryana and ex-officio chairman of HUDA (Hooda), the retired IAS officers and other office-bearers of HUDA in Panchkula illegally benefitted pre-selected

acquaintances of the then state CM by allotting them 14 industrial plots and denying allotment to more worthy applicants."

The plots are located in Panchkula and the allocation took place in 2013.

The ED said it was found during its probe "that the price fixed for the subject allotment were kept four-five times below the circle rate and seven-eight times (higher than) the market rate".

"The criteria for allotment was altered 18 days after the last date of application and when all the applicant data was in the possession of HUDA."

"The criteria was altered in such a way to favour the pre-selected applicants by increasing the discretion at the hands of the interview committee. The entire interview process was vitiated and compromised as no formal record of marks allocation was kept," the ED alleged.

Rajnath launches e-Chhawani portal for cantonment residents

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In an effort to provide online municipal services to residents of cantonments all over the country, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday launched a portal "e-Chhawani." It will help more than 20 lakh people living in 62 cantonments.

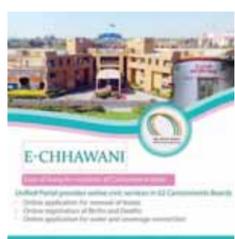
At the launch event here, the minister said "With the help of this portal, the people would be able to get government documents made such as trade license and apply for services such as water connectivity."

Public services such as health, sanitation and primary education in a defence cantonment area are provided by the cantonment board concerned, which is a civic administration body under the Ministry of Defence.

Rajnath said "I know very well that the people living in cantonment board have to face a number of problems...You can sit at home and get your complaints registered and resolved with the help of this portal."

The truth is that our government wants to make the entire system citizen-friendly, he mentioned.

He also said "We have started this portal so that peo-



ple do not have to visit government offices again and again or stand in a line to resolve their problems." The portal is not a solution to all the problems but it is an effective and important step towards good governance, he noted.

The minister also suggested to the officials of the Cantonment boards that they must take people's feedback on how well the portal is doing its job in resolving their problems.

"Our government is trying its best for the country's socio-economic development. The government is also trying to improve the governance structure that has been existing till now. Our prime minister has also said - minimum government, maximum governance," he said.

Indian liquor makers urge CSD to support domestic brands

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indian liquor makers have urged the Canteen Stores Department (CSD), operated by the Defence Ministry, to support the domestic premium brands and continue its ban on imported liquor. The Confederation of Indian Alcoholic Beverage Companies (CIABC), which represents the domestic liquor makers, has written to General Manager, CSD to promote premium Indian whiskey brands.

CIABC said there are apprehensions that the Indian brands do not compete with the imported liquor on quality aspects, which is not true.

"It has been brought to our notice that some vested interests have requested resumption of supply of imported liquor to CSD on grounds that there are no competing Indian made liquor products of same quality or price as imported Scotch Whiskies," CIABC Director General Vinod Giri said.

Rebutting it, CIABC said India produces internationally acclaimed malt whiskeys such as Amrut Amalgam, Amrut Fusion, Paul John Bold, Rampur etc and many of these are already available in the CSD as an alternative to imported products.

CIABC added that Indian liquor products face several non-tariff barriers in European markets which make their global outreach difficult

"These products are considered amongst the best in the world, exported to over 60 countries, and are priced similarly or above popular imported products even in India," it said.

CIABC added that Indian liquor products face several non-tariff barriers in European markets which make their global outreach difficult and hence they need to be supported at home to acquire the scale necessary to compete globally.

"The decision of CSD to sell only Indian-made products, therefore, is a watershed moment," it said.

According to CIABC, liquor products made in India contribute Rs 2.5 lakh crore to the governments in taxes, support 50 lakh farmers and provide jobs to over 20 lakh people in the country. CSD is governed by the Board of Control for Canteen Services (BOCCS), headed by the defence minister. It operates 34 depots strategically located across India.

DR DEEPTI'S KILLING CBI conducts searches on 2 premises of accused persons

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI on Tuesday conducted searches in connection with the probe into the death of Dr Deepti at two premises of accused persons including her husband and her in-laws at Agra (Uttar Pradesh).

"Criminating evidence/material in the form of documents/exhibits relevant to the case including laptop, mobile phones and documents relating to various bank accounts and immovable assets were recovered," the CBI said.

The agency had registered a case on January 22 against five accused persons including husband of the deceased in compliance with the orders dated December 17, 2020 of the Supreme Court. The CBI took over the investigation of the case vide Crime No. 623/2020, earlier registered at Police Station Tajganj, Agra regarding the death of Dr Deepti.

The father of the deceased had levelled allegations that the deceased Dr Deepti was killed by the in-laws and her husband. It was further alleged that the accused were continuously demanding dowry and used to torture her for the sake of dowry. It was also alleged that the father of the deceased had tried to meet the demands of dowry many times but that

ASI arrested for ₹20,000 bribery charge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI, in a separate case, arrested an Assistant Sub Inspector, Harbhajan Singh, posted at Police Station, Sector 34, Chandigarh. Earlier, the agency had registered a case against the ASI on a complaint alleging that the accused was demanding a bribe of Rs 20,000 in lieu of not registering a case against the complainant, an employee of Air Force, in a matter of non-payment of loan amount to a financing firm. The CBI laid a trap and caught the accused red handed while demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 10,000 as partial payment.

did not satisfy the in-laws and ultimately she was tortured and died on August 6, 2020. The husband of the deceased, arrested earlier by local police, is presently in judicial custody. The five accused in the case are victim's husband Sumit, her father-in-law SC Agarwal, mother-in-law Anita, brother-in-law Amit and sister-in-law Tulika.

Survey to collect data on drinking water in 10 cities launched

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry on Tuesday launched a survey to collect data on drinking water in 10 cities under the Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban).

As part of the survey, 'Pey Jal Survekshan', data will also be collected on wastewater management and condition of water bodies in the cities. In a statement, ministry secretary Durga Shanker Mishra said the mission will be monitored through a technology-based platform on which beneficiary response will be monitored.

"Pey Jal Survekshan" will be conducted in cities to ascertain equitable distribution of water, reuse of wastewater and mapping of water bodies with respect to quantity and quality of water through a challenge process," Mishra said.

As the first step, he said, the ministry has decided to launch a pilot 'Pey Jal Survekshan' in 10 cities -- Agra, Badlapur, Bhubaneswar, Churu, Kochi, Madurai, Patiala, Rohtak, Surat and Tumkur.

According to the secretary, based on the learnings of the pilot survey, this exercise will be extended to all Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) cities.

"Data on drinking water, wastewater management, non-revenue water and condition of three water bodies in the city will be collected through face-to-face interviews with citizens and municipal officials as per the approved questionnaire, on-call interviews, water sample collection and laboratory testing, and field survey for non-revenue water," the ministry said.

Jal Jeevan Mission (Urban) is designed to provide universal coverage of water supply to all households through functional taps in all 4,378 statutory towns, it said.

Cess introduced in Budget will boost APMC, farm infra: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Agri cess introduced in the Union Budget 2021-22 will finally go towards boosting APMC mandis and related farming infrastructure, all of which are governed by States, a top Government functionary said on Tuesday, rejecting criticism that the cess deprives States of revenue as its receipt entirely falls in the Centre's kitty.

Official sources also justified the introduction of tax on EPF's interests in accounts where employees' share is more than Rs 2.5 lakh per annum, noting that many people parked money in crores to get an assured return of over 8.5 per cent. They asserted that the measure will impact only one per cent of total account holders.

The Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) is essentially for workers and those who are dependent on it, and it is not fair when some people are putting in Rs 1 crore or even Rs 2 crore annually to get an assured return, the senior government official told reporters in an off-the-record interaction.

Asked about concerns over rising petroleum prices, the sources said oil revenue is income for the Centre as well as states and noted that the Union government's share is fixed while that of states rise when the basic price of petrol and diesel go up.

On the demand that petroleum products should be brought under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) to relieve consumers of huge tax burden, they said it is for the GST Council, of which all states are a member, to decide.

With many opposition parties slamming the introduction of cess in the budget, presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 1 in Parliament, the sources pointed out that the revenue, expected to be around Rs 30,000 crore, may fall in the Centre's kitty but the government has already made it clear that the money will be used to boost Agriculture Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) mandis and related infrastructure. This all falls under states' control, so it is states which will finally gain from the cess, they said.

While the budget has allocated Rs 73,000 crore for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), this can always go up as it is essentially a demand-driven programme, the sources said. With a large chunk of migrant workers, who had returned home during the COVID-19-induced lockdown, gradually returning to their cities of work, the demand for MGNREGA may not be as high in the coming fiscal, they added.

The budgetary estimate for 2020-21 was Rs 61,500 crore but it was revised to Rs 1.1 lakh crore following the pandemic's outbreak.

The sources expressed confidence that the recovery the economy has witnessed in the last few months will be sustained, and India will remain one of the fastest growing nations in the coming years. The government will stick to the reforms that the budget envisages, they said, noting that the sustained Foreign Direct Investment inflow into India is a reflection on the country's strong fundamentals.

WESTERN RAILWAY VARIOUS WORKS

DY CSTE C BRC invites E-Tenders against Tender No Snt_C_BRC_112_2020-21 closing date 08/03/2021 15:00. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.

Name of Work: Supply, installation, Testing and Commissioning of Alternate Radio for Block working, Gate Communication, 8Quad and OFC communication work at Dabholi, Chandod & Kevadiya Section along with trenching, laying & termination of 6 Quad / OFC cables in connection with Gauge conversion work between Dabholi - Chandod section with extension by new line upto Kevadiya (49.75 kms.) on Vadodara division of Western Railway.

Tender Type: Open. **Bidding System:** Single Packet. **Tender Closing Date & time:** 08/03/2021 till 15:00 hrs. **Advertised Value:** ₹ 35918550.38. **Earnest Money/Bid Security (₹):** 0.00. **Validity of Offer:** 45 Days.

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NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

Invitation of tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

NIT No. 116-S/1/Vehicle-6/Sr.CC-JHI/Contract (2020)/ML-IV

Name of work and its location Hiring of multi-utility Road vehicle i.e. Innova/Scorpio/Xylo/Mobilis & Erliga (Five Door-Seven Seater) for the period of two years round the clock under Sr. Crew Controller, Jind

Approx Cost of work Rs. 16,26,624/- (Sixteen Lakh twenty six thousand six hundred twenty four only) plus GST as applicable

Earnest Money Rs. 32500/- (Note: It should be in the form of net banking or gateway only. Note : FDR not be accepted as EMD for tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Board letter no 2015/CR-1/CT/5/1 dated 31.08.2016)

Completion period of work Two years i.e. 24 months from the date of execution of work

Cost of tender document on cash/by post Rs. 2360/- with GST@18%

Date and Time for submission of tender and opening of tender Upto 12:00 hrs on 12.03.2021 Opening of Tender at 12:15 hrs

Website particulars notice board location complete details of tender can be seen Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

116-S/1/Vehicle-6/Sr.CC-JHI/Contract (2020)/ML-IV Dated : 16.02.2021 344/2021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Despite floods, several farmers in UP manage to earn decent living

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Despite natural calamities like floods and associated water logging problems, several small farmers like Koila Devi of flood-affected areas in Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh, are managing to earn a decent living from the produce of their agricultural land, thanks to the help from Science and Technology-based interventions like flood resilient farming practices and related technologies facilitated by central support project, TARA scheme of DST India.

Such support at the systemic level has helped and empowered the 64 years old from the village Rakukhor of Jungle Kaudiya block of Gorakhpur district to cultivate 20 crops in a single year, thereby raising her annual income by 30 percent.

But just a few years ago this was not possible. Like many farmers' in northeastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, floods and associated water logging for more than three to four months affected her agricultural produce severely each year. Apart from this, the rising cost of seed, fertilizer, and pesticides



reduced her income over the years.

"She had been scouting for alternative income options when help came in the form of Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG), Gorakhpur, UP, a core support group under the TARA Scheme the Science for Equity, Empowerment, and Development (SEED) Division, DST," said an official from the Science and Technology Ministry.

GEAG provided her with technical support on effective farming planning like gradient-based cropping system, multi-layered farming with time and space management, appropriate crop combination, raised bed low tunnel poly house, and appropriate utilization of weather advisory.

A total of 36 model farmers and more than 2200 other

small and marginal farmers have adopted flood resilient techniques of farming developed along with 9 community institutions on cluster level during the last two and half years with facilitation and handholding support under the Core support project being implemented by GEAG.

"This has shown a new direction towards flood-resilient livelihoods and also transformed the flood-risks into an opportunity with socio-economic gain. Since the inception of the project in 2018, proper facilitation and handholding support for adopting these resilient farming technique packages compatible with local situations has increased the average income of small and marginal farmers by 37.5 per cent by lowering the input cost (30-35 percent) in the farming system," said the official.

Such S&T-based interventions has also encouraged Koila Devi and many of her ilk in the region to take up additional activities like managing millet processing unit as a group enterprises in the flood-prone area, thus boosting their income.

Contemplating some action on issue of regulating OTT platforms, Centre tells SC

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre Tuesday told the Supreme Court that it was contemplating "some action" on the issue of regulating OTT platforms such as Netflix and Amazon Prime.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices A S Bopanna and V Ramasubramanian, which was initially of the view that the petitioner should approach the Government for the remedy, asked the Government to file its response within six weeks to the PIL seeking OTT regulation by an autonomous body.

At the outset, Additional Solicitor General K M Nataraj said the Centre was contemplating some action on the issue of regulating OTT platforms.

The CJJ sought to know from Nataraj as to what would be the action from the government and asked him to file the response in six weeks while tagging the matter with the pending petition.



Shashank Shekhar Jha and Apurva Arhatia also sought a proper board/institution/association for the monitoring and management of content on different OTT/Streaming and digital media platforms.

"With cinema theatres unlikely to open anytime soon in the country, OTT/Streaming and different digital media platforms have surely given a way out for film makers and artists to release their content without being worried about getting clearance certificates for their films and series from the censor board," the plea said.

At present, however, there is no law or autonomous body governing the digital content to monitor and manage these digital contents and it is made available to the public at large without any filter or screening, it said.

"Lack of legislation governing OTT/Streaming Platforms is becoming evident

with each passing day and every new case that is filed on these grounds. The government is facing heat to fill this lacuna with regulations from the public and the Judiciary; still the relevant government departments have not done anything significant to regularise these OTT/Streaming Platforms," the plea said.

None of the OTT/Streaming platforms including Netflix, Amazon Prime, Zee5, and Hotstar have signed the self-regulation provided by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting since February 2020, it said.

The ministry had earlier told the top court in a separate case that there is a need to regulate digital media and that the court may first appoint a committee of persons as amicus before laying down guidelines with respect to the regulation of hate speech in the media.

Cong to build anti-CAA memorial if it comes to power in Assam

Guwahati: Ahead of the Assembly elections in Assam, taking a tough stance on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the Congress on Tuesday announced that the party if elected would build a memorial to commemorate the martyrdom of anti-CAA protesters, who sacrificed their lives to save Assamese pride.

Assam Congress leaders were present during the party's election campaign in the state on Sunday where former Party President and Lok Sabha MP Rahul Gandhi announced that the controversial CAA would not be implemented in Assam or any part of the country at any cost.

Congress Campaign Committee Chairman, Pradyut Bordoloi, on Tuesday said that after winning the state Assembly elections, the party would build a memorial to the anti-

CAA people's movement that has been going on in Assam.

"The memorial shall remember the people's struggle and sacrifices, protest songs and paintings," he added. Assam Pradesh Congress Committee President, Ripun Bora, reiterated that a grand memorial would be constructed in Guwahati if the party comes back to power.

"Guwahati would see a new landmark, a grand memorial in the memory of the anti-CAA movement to be built by the incoming Congress government. This would be the state's message to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). No CAA in Assam," Bora told the media.

Congress Legislature Party leader, Debabrata Saikia, said the dark days of BJP's oppression of Assamese people are about to get over.

"Congress is winning Assam

and would make a memorial of the historic people's struggle against CAA," he added.

Echoing similar sentiments, Congress Manifesto Committee Chairman Gaurav Gogoi also asserted that the party would build a memorial to salute the supreme sacrifice of the anti-CAA protesters.

Congress leader Abdul Khaleque said the reason why the Congress has announced that it would make a memorial for the anti-CAA struggle is to make sure that future generations remember how the people stood up to the autocratic rule of the BJP and its imposition of an anti-Assamese law. Assam Congress Spokesperson, Bobbeeta Sharma, said the party leaders are campaigning against the "draconian CAA" while they are touring the state through "Axom Basaon Ahok" Yatra. **IANS**

Politics heats up in Bihar after flurry of political meetings

Patna: A round of political speculation has begun in Bihar following a flurry of meetings involving political leaders.

It's been only a few days since Lok Janshakti Party's (LJP) only MLA in the state Rajkumar Singh met senior leader of Janata Dal(United) (JDU) and Minister Ashok Chaudhary. Now, meetings between LJP MP Chandan Kumar Singh and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and between Communist Party of India leader Kanhaiya Kumar and Chaudhary, have raised political temperatures in the State.

The LJP is a fierce opponent of the JDU in the state. Speculation is on the rise following these meetings and clarifications from parties have failed to put an end to the discussions.

The meeting between JNU student leader Kanhaiya Kumar and JDU working president and building construction minister Chaudhary has set tongues wagging. This is being looked at from various angles. Both leaders have also posed for photographs with friends and held long discussions.

The LJP is constantly working to increase its political clout. This is the reason that Bahujan Samaj Party's only MLA Jama Khan has been awarded with a ministerial post after entering the Chief Minister's

party, and Independent MLA Sumit Singh is holding a minister's chair after joining the party.

It must be noted here that Kanhaiya is a big face for the Left that had tasted success in the Assembly elections held last year. The Left contested the last Assembly elections along with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD). In such a situation, even though this meeting is being described as formal, there are rumours about it.

Kanhaiya's meeting has become special because the party has recently passed a resolution condemning him. It is being said that many party leaders are also against him.

LJP MP Chandan Kumar, too, attended Nitish Kumar's 'Darbar' on Monday and there was a long discussion between the two leaders. After this meeting, the MP may have said that he has met the Chief Minister on the problems of the area, but many things are beginning to be interpreted.

LJP spokesman Ashraf Ansari, while clarifying about his MP's meeting with the Chief Minister, said that he would have met the Chief Minister regarding the development work in his constituency. He said that the LJP is united and political interpretations should not be made. **IANS**

UP to boost herbal cultivation along Ganga banks

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has issued directives to boost herbal and organic cultivation along the banks of the Ganga. He has said that the area for herbal cultivation will be increased to over 10 lakh hectares.

According to a government spokesman, the state government has prepared a unique plan with allocation of Rs 4,000 crore to step up organic and zero budget farming in the state and also support its distribution with a dedicated market, which in turn will help farmers living in the adjoining regions by increasing their income up to Rs 500 crore.

At present, the National Medicinal Plants' Board (NMPB) is supporting the cultivation of medicinal plants in an area of 2.25 lakh hectares in the state. Nearly 800 hectares of land along the Ganga river will be put under cultivation with NMPB.

Along with this, the agriculture and horticulture department is also aiding the ambitious plan of the government by providing grants for selected crops on basis of acreage per hectare.

Uttar Pradesh is extremely prosperous in terms of agro-climatic conditions. It has the presence of nine kinds of agro-climatic zones, abundant water, human wealth and the immensely fertile land of the Indo-Gangetic region. Considering the large market demand of organic products in the country as well as abroad, this step of the state government is expected to emerge as a special benefit scheme for the farmers.

The department of agriculture has taken major steps to boost medicinal farming in the state. It recently started a scheme 'Amrita' with the help of Uttar Pradesh Ayush Society.

Under the scheme, an Ayush Vatika (model herbal nursery) consisting of medicinal plants has been set up in an area of about 20 hectares in Dehwa, an agricultural sector of Mohanlalganj, Lucknow.

The nursery will facilitate the process of seed production, transplanting and cultivation of several herbs like Shirish, Ghritkumari, Neem, Shatavari, Punarnava, Sahajan, Jatamanashi, Tulasi, Ratanjot Ginseng, Giloy and Aonla.

The spokesman said that farmers will also be trained and quality seeds and saplings from the nursery will be provided to them at the lowest price. **IANS**

46 cases accorded sanction for seizure of assets used for terrorism in J&K: Police

PNS ■ JAMMU

In a significant development Jammu & Kashmir Police Headquarters has accorded permission in 46 cases for seizure/attachment of various moveable and immovable assets of individuals or associations to restrict the terror activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a police spokesman, In 2021 so far, PHQ has accorded sanction for seizure of eleven vehicles which include six four wheelers and five two wheelers. The permission for seizure has been granted under section 25 Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967.

Section 25 Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967 provides for the more effective prevention of certain unlawful activities of individuals and associations, and for dealing with terrorist activities, and for matters con-

nected therewith.

"Following the due procedures of the law the Jammu and Kashmir Police has in the last couple of years or so accorded sanction for seizure/attachments of four wheelers, motorcycles, cash, land houses and shops through different orders to ensure that the terror activities are under check," a police spokesman added.

"Under this Act 61 vehicles, which include 02 trucks/trailer trucks, 01 tipper, 04 Alto 800 cars, 02 Hyundai Creta, 01 Maruti Echo, 01 Baleno, 04 Santro, 01 Asta, 02 Wagon R, 01 Mahindra Quanta, 01 Auto (Tata Zip), 02 Maruti Swift, 18 Motor Cycles, 05 Scooty, 02 Auto load carrier, 03 Alto K10, 01 Maruti 800, 01 Load carrier (207), 02 Tavera, 01 Ambulance, 01 Tata Tiago, 01 Ford Figo, 02 Echo ambulance, 01 I20, and 01 Dutsun. These include the Creta car

belonging to Sofi Fahmeeda Associate of Assiya Andrabi. Cash of rupees 370000, cheque worth 50 thousand rupees has been also seized. Besides immovable property which has been seized includes five houses including the house of Mehmooda Begum mother-in-law of Assiya Andrabi of banned Dukhtran Milat, six shops belonging to Nazir Ahmad Wani of Pulwama in case FIR number 39/2020 under section 18, 19, 39 ULA (P) Act. and 01 Kanal, 06 marlas of land.

A police spokesman said, "Jammu and Kashmir Police along with the other security forces and investigation agencies is fighting the challenges of the terrorism at various fronts. While the number of terrorists belonging to different terror outfits is neutralized in the sustained anti-terror operations, the handlers are using motor vehicles and the proceeds of terrorists for furthering their evil designs".

SMC to repair temples in Srinagar

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The Mayor of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Junaid Azim Mattu on Tuesday announced that every single temple in Srinagar that requires repairs and reconstruction would be repaired by SMC. "This is my personal assurance. We will start repair and reconstruction work for at least 30 Mandirs in Srinagar this year", Mattu tweeted.

He also visited the Sheetal Nath Mandir at Habba Kadal and offered special prayers. The temple, with a history of over 125 years, is located on the banks of Jehlum river in the old Srinagar city.

After the outbreak of militancy in 1990 it was closed down and was thrown open in 2010 for the first time after a long gap of 20 years on the occasion of Basant Panchmi.

Meanwhile, during his visit to the temple Mattu also interacted with the office bearers of the temple management, devotees and passed



instructions for comprehensive repairs and reconstruction by SMC keeping its heritage intact.

Neizens tracking the developments in Jammu and Kashmir hailed the announcement made by Mayor Junaid Azim Mattu and wrote comments saying this 'healing touch' will go a long way'. **IANS**

Amid increase in cases in Maha, CM Uddhav warns of another lockdown

TN RAGHUINATHA ■ MUMBAI

Amid increasing Covid-19 cases in some parts of state, Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday exhorted the district officials across the State to enforce the pandemic protocols strictly and warned the people in the event of the people not adhering to the prescribed SOPs, his Government would not have any alternative but to re-impose lockdown in the State.

Reviewing the Covid-19 situation with the divisional commissioners, district collectors, Municipal Commissioners and district police chiefs across the state through a video conference, Uddhav said: "Since there was a fall in the number of Covid-19 cases in the state during the last few months, the people are taking things easy. As a result Covid-19 protocols are not being enforced strictly. Implement the protocols strictly. If the people do not adhere to the prescribed norms like use of masks and steps against crowds at public places, then we will have not any alternative but to enforce lockdown once again".

The chief minister gave a firm directive to the senior officials across the state at a high-level review meeting, where he along with Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, Health Minister Rajesh Tope and Chief Secretary Sanjay Kumar took stock of the Covid-19 with the senior-most district officials, Health officers, Members of Covid-19 Task Force.

Among other things, the chief minister directed the senior officials across to declare such places as contingency zones where the number of patients was increasing, undertake a structural audit of the jumbo

field hospitals and disinfect local bodies must disinfect all public places, toilets, bus stands and parks.

In some other measures, Uddhav ordered that Covid-19 tests be conducted at target areas, at least 20 contacts of individual patients be identified and a health-map of the state be drawn through the 'My Family, My Responsibility' initiative.

The authorities were also advised to discuss with all business organisations and associations on whether the SOPs were being followed and their implementation was happening. Like in the recent past, police permission would be needed for marriages, banquet/hall owners would be booked if they allowed anybody without masks, etc.

Meanwhile, Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshiyari said that the threat of Covid-19 had not gone and called upon the people to exercise utmost vigil since nobody knows for how long the scourge will last.

In a related development, Mumbai Mayor Kishori Pednekar lamented that barely 60 percent of suburban train commuters were not wearing face-masks, posing a risk of further spread of Covid-19 in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) which reflected in the sudden increase in fresh cases.

"Let us not invite another lockdown. It's the people who must take necessary care. We should not go back to square one," Pednekar said.

The Mumbai Mayor's statement should be seen in the context of the fact that since the resumption of suburban train services from February 1, there has been an increase in the number of cases.

Madras HC upholds 2009 poll win of Chidambaram; putting end to 12-year-old legal battle

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Tuesday upheld the 2009 election of Congress strongman P Chidambaram from Sivaganga Lok Sabha constituency putting an end to a 12-year old legal battle.

Justice Pushpa Satyanarayana dismissed the petition filed by Chidambaram's rival Raja Kannappan of the AIADMK (who later joined the DMK) challenging the legality of the result. Kannappan had alleged that Chidambaram, the then Union Home Minister in the UPA Government led by Manmohan Singh had resorted to malpractices and corruption during the counting of votes. According to Kannappan, the Returning Officer had illegally added the votes secured by him in the Alangudi Assembly segment into the kitty of Chidambaram. If such illegality had not occurred, the petitioner was confident of having won the seat by a margin of 7,034 votes.

Pushpa Satyanarayana dismissed the petition stating that charges of corruption could not be proved. Chidambaram was declared elected by the Returning Officer by a margin of 3,354 votes after the entire national media reported that he had lost the election. But this was subsequently modified.

When it was initially announced that Chidambaram lost the election, the then home minister conceded the defeat. But counting of votes was stopped at this juncture for 30 minutes and later on the Returning Officer declared that Chidambaram had scraped through.

Chidambaram who was

cross-examined by the lawyers had told the court that he does not remember what transpired during the counting of votes as it took place more than a decade ago. He also denied charges that he resorted to corruption and bribe to win the election.

The fate of the case was almost sealed when Kannappan dumped the AIADMK and joined the DMK mid-way through. There were reports that he did not cooperate with the lawyers hired by him for the litigation. Interestingly, J Jayalalitha, former chief minister of Tamil Nadu herself, wrote to the then Chief election Commissioner expressing concern over the alleged malpractices during the counting of votes at Sivaganga, Chidambaram's home turf.

"The votes that were physically entered by the counting agents/ counting officers of Kannappan were deliberately changed by the Data Entry Operators at the time of making entries in Form-20. A comparison of the hand written entries made by the counting agents of Kannappan and the entries made by the Data Entry Operators in Form 20 would clearly reveal that the votes polled in favour of Kannappan were entered with mala fide intention to favour Chidambaram and facilitate his fraudulent victory," Jayalalitha had written in her letter.

The case got delayed mainly because of the delaying tactics deployed by the defendant who questioned the legality of admitting such an election petition and later on submitted procedural issues to delay the court proceedings. This will go down in Tamil Nadu's history as the longest ever election petition suit heard by a court.

Man hacks wife, 2 daughters with axe in Bihar; woman dead

Siwan: A man killed his wife and injured two daughters with an axe in Bihar's Siwan district near the Mufassil police station area.

The wife Rita Devi died in the attack while the two girls -- Nikki (16) and Soni Kumari (12) -- were seriously injured and are being treated at a local hospital.

The condition of one of the girls remains critical.

The man Shashikant Yadav alias Raju, a resident of Tandwa village, has been arrested, a police official said on Tuesday. **IANS**

Lucknow: 2 PFI members held, blast averted

Lucknow: Two members of the Popular Front of India (PFI), who were planning to engineer an explosion in Lucknow, have been arrested by the UP Special Task Force.

The two accused persons were planning to engineer a bomb blast in the state capital on the occasion of Basant Panchami on Tuesday.

ADG (Law and order) Prashant Kumar told reporters that the arrested persons have been identified as Badruddin, the military commander of PFI, and his associate Feroz Khan. They were arrested from the Picnic Spot road.

Sixteen explosive devices, a 32 bore pistol and live cartridges were recovered from their possession. Some incriminating documents have also been seized, including four PAN cards and travel documents. The ADG said that the two were radicalising the youth and giving them training by setting up small groups. They were planning to target Hindu leaders in Uttar Pradesh.

He said that further details would be known only after the detailed interrogation of the duo. **IANS**

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INDRAPRASTHA UNIVERSITY
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Sector-16 C, Dwarka, New Delhi - 110 078
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TENDER NOTICE FOR INVESTMENT OF CPF FUNDS

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University intends to invest its funds of CPF Trust approx Rs. 3.05 Cr. in fixed deposit and accordingly invites competitive interest rates from the Nationalized Banks only by 22nd February 2021 upto 11.00 A.M by post or via Email on Email Id:-investment@ipu.ac.in with the validity of interest rates upto 24th February 2021. The detailed notice can be seen on the University website "www.ipu.ac.in" under the Head "Tenders" in Events & Notices.

(CONTROLLER OF FINANCE)

बिहार सरकार

कार्यपालक अभियन्ता-सह-स्थानिक अभियन्ता का कार्यालय
बिहार भवन, नई दिल्ली।
अल्पकालिन निविदा

पत्र सं०- 284 / स्था०अभि०, दिनांक-15 / 02 / 2021

बिहार भवन एवं बिहार निवास चाणक्यापुरी, नई दिल्ली हेतु निम्नलिखित कार्यों के लिए समुचित श्रेणी में बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग में पंजीकृत टेकेदारों भवन निर्माताओं से बिहार लोक निर्माण विभाग एफ-2 एकरारनामा में हाने वाले कार्यों के लिए मुहरबंद निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है।

- विज्ञापन दाता का नाम एवं पता :- स्थानिक अभियन्ता, बिहार भवन, चाणक्यापुरी नई दिल्ली
- परीमाण विपत्र के बिक्री की तिथि :- 23-02-2021 (कार्यालय अवधि तक)
- निविदा प्राप्त करने की तिथि एवं समय :- 24-02-2021 (अपराहण 3:00 बजे तक)
- निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :- 24-02-2021 (अपराहण 3:00 बजे से 5:00 बजे तक)
- परीमाण विपत्र निर्गत का स्थान :- 1. स्थानिक अभियन्ता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाणक्यापुरी, नई दिल्ली।
2. उपस्थानिक अभियन्ता, कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाणक्यापुरी नई दिल्ली।
- निविदा प्राप्ति का स्थान :- स्थानिक अभियन्ता कार्यालय बिहार निवास चाणक्यापुरी, नई दिल्ली।

क्रमांक	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रघन राशि	बी.ओ.व्यू राशि	कार्य अवधि
1.	Renovation of staff toilet at entry gate (including its door and stairs there) the Bihar Niwas for the year 2020-21	350000.00	7000.00	750.00	15 दिन

- शर्तें:-
- निविदा के साथ अद्यतन निर्बंधन आयकर प्रमाण-पत्र वाविज्य कर प्रमाण-पत्र, चरित्र प्रमाण-पत्र, पैन कार्ड आदि की छाया प्रति जो राजपत्रित पदाधिकारी से अभिप्रमाणित हो संलग्न करना होगा।
 - अग्रघन राशि डाकघर के एन.ए.सी /सावधि जमा के रूप में संलग्न की जानी है जो स्थानिक अभियन्ता चाणक्यापुरी बिहार भवन नई दिल्ली के नाम से निविदा प्रकाशन के तिथि के बाद के तिथि में विधिवत प्लेज्ड हो।
 - निविदाकारों को भरतीय मानक विनिर्देश के अनुसार कार्य हेतु अपेक्षित सामग्री की खुद व्यवस्था करना होगा।
 - बिना कारण बताए निविदा स्थगित एवं रद्द करने का अधिकार अधोहस्ताक्षरी को सुरक्षित होगा।
 - प्राक्कलन की राशि घट- बढ़ सकती है।
उक्त कार्य के संबंध में किसी प्रकार की जानकारी हेतु अधोहस्ताक्षरी कार्यालय से कार्यालय अवधि में संपर्क कर प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

हस्ता/-
कार्यपालिका अभियन्ता - सह -
स्थानिक अभियन्ता
बिहार भवन, नई दिल्ली।

CLARIFICATION
This refers to a news item "Devendra Kula Vellalar community to get delisted from SC soon, announces PM" published on February 15, 2021. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has clarified that the news report is misleading and does not reflect the actual position. The Cabinet has approved for categorising (7) SC communities into Devendra Kula Vellalar which would also be a part of the Scheduled Castes list of Tamil Nadu. Therefore, the reported statement that they will be delisted from SCs and would be made OBCs is completely incorrect.

5 women die as cargo vehicle plunges into canal in TN

Tuticorin (Tamil Nadu): Five women died at Maniyachi near Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu after a cargo vehicle in which they were travelling went out of control and plunged into a canal on Tuesday.

The women were on their way to work when the accident occurred, even as 30 more people were injured in the mishap.

Police officers said that the injured people have been

admitted to the Ottapidaram government hospital and the Thoothukudi medical college hospital, taking help from the locals.

All the five deceased were agricultural labourers. Maniyachi is about 600 km away from Chennai.

The victims were heading to a farm at Maharajapuram village near Maniyachi when they met with the accident. **IANS**

GOVERNMENT OF GOA
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

WORKS DIVISION XXV, (R), PWD
FATORDA MARGAO GOA
(e-tender mode & e-payment mode only)

e-tender Notice NO.PWD/W.D.XXV/ASWF-2/20-21/10 Date:- 15/02/2021

- Last date of online application: 04/03/2021 upto 15.00hrs.
- Last date of online submission of tender: 04/03/2021 upto 15.00hrs.
- Date & Time of Opening of Online Tender: 05/03/2021 after 10.30hrs.

For more details please contact the Office of the Executive Engineer, Work Division XXV, PWD, Fatorda Margao-Goa

Website: www.etender.goa.gov.in or
Website <https://goaenivida.gov.in>

DIP/adv/1692/2020-21



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Going high

Politicians want liquor and money donated to farmers, lowering the dignity of their cause

If the protracted farmers' stir — in which scores have died while braving the bitter winter and lack of basic amenities at the protest sites — has made one thing clear, it is that our politicians do not care about anything beyond their own position and vote bank. What else can one construe from the two very shameful statements that have been made by the *netas* of two national parties in the span of a week? On February 14, Haryana Congress leader Vidya Devi kicked off a controversy when she told party workers to donate money and liquor to "rejuvenate the farmers' protest". Devi told a district executive committee meeting in Jind: "One should donate money, vegetables, ghee and liquor to further the farmers' protests." She went on to do further damage, both to the cause of the beleaguered farmers and to her party, by announcing a march in Jind in support of the growers, saying it would give the Congress a direction and new lease of life in the State. "We lost our existence after losing the elections. The *andolan* (protest) was revived as the farmers have a strong will. Now, we have to run it," she said. Obviously, the farmers, who have given their all till now to the protest that entered the 83rd day and have wisely tried their best to keep all political parties at bay, are enraged and mortified at the leader's statement, with Bharatiya Kisan Union leader Rakesh Tikait wondering, "What is the use of liquor here? I don't know



why she's making such comments. Such people don't have anything to do with our movement. They can distribute whatever they want, at their movement."

While the red-faced Congress quickly distanced itself from Devi's remarks, the BJP has been equally quick to condemn the party for trying to exploit the farmers' protests for political gains. Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri tweeted: "Is this what it has come down to? A damning video that exposes what the farmers' protests actually mean for the Congress party. Utterly shameful." But the BJP would be well advised to do a bit of introspection before it tries to take the moral high ground. After all, the party has done everything it could to discredit the movement. Right from saying that it was the handiwork of Khalistanis, Pakistanis, vested interests and other political parties out to get the ruling party, the BJP has done it all. It has also shown an absolutely callous attitude towards the deaths of farmers during the protest, with the Government admitting in Parliament that it has no data on these deaths with Haryana Agriculture Minister JP Dalal adding insult to injury: "Wouldn't they have died if they were at home? Out of one-two lakh people, don't 200 people die in six months?" Such statements only expose the callousness of our political masters, and that they really don't care about the woes of the common man. Thankfully, the *annadata* of the country is made of sterner stuff. One only wishes that, for once, the *netas* would stop thinking about their vested interests.

PICTALK



Icicles form on a citrus tree in Edinburg, Texas

Cultivate the farmers first

The lack of traction with farmers, unlike with traders, has been a bane for the BJP. It has thereby failed to build a counterweight to the agitation



PRIYADARSHI DUTTA

The Twitter handle of the BJP's Kisan Morcha is a good indicator of the saffron party's clout among farmers, or the lack of it. This might explain why the world's largest and India's ruling party is unable to sink its teeth into the agrarian community to build a counter-narrative to the farmers' agitation. Some other parties like the CPI enjoy better traction, though electorally insignificant, with farmers. Rajkumar Chahar, the head of the Kisan Morcha, is also a Lok Sabha MP from Fatehpur Sikri constituency. Thus he has to act like any other MP, prioritising his political career over organisational work among farmers. In an interview with a Hindi daily, he had said in November that the growers were unwilling to meet any political leader. But this hardly seems to be the case as several political leaders have reached out to the protesting farmers. The BJP itself alleges that the farmers' agitation is highly "politicised". None has, to be honest, prevented the ruling party from "politicising" a support that can act as a counterweight to the agitation.

The critics of the farmers' protest have "securitised" the counter-narrative on social media. They perceive the cultivators' movement solely through the prism of national security. The farmers' movement is generally projected as a Khalistani campaign. Interestingly, Julio Reberio, IPS (Retd), the former DG of Punjab Police who adopted a bullet-for-bullet policy against Khalistani terrorists in 1980s and survived two assassination attempts, scoffs at such a suggestion. Anyone who recalls the dark days of Khalistani terrorism in the 1980s knows that it was aimed at severing Punjab from India. It manifested by the turn of 1980s as sanguineous attacks on Hindus to scare them away from the State. The Khalistanis were prepared for a similar reprisal against Sikhs across the rest of India. This way they would have achieved a forcible exchange of population, leading to the creation of a monolith Sikh state. By creating a sovereign Khalistan, they would



have achieved a solitary prison for the Sikhs measuring 50,362 sq km and located between India and Pakistan. With no riverheads, no access to the sea and poorly developed industry, it would have been dependent on grain trade with India and Pakistan. India had the territorial depth to step up her food grain production gradually. An independent Punjab, however, would have been buried under mounds of grains had it lost a ready procurer in the form of New Delhi.

Genuine Khalistanis would have deployed their manpower to wrest Punjab through insurgency rather than sending unarmed men, women and children to sit on dharna on Delhi's border. They would rather depend upon the support of 62 per cent population of Punjab who are Sikhs than appealing to the Union Government to repeal the three farm laws. How does the existence or repeal of farm laws help in achieving Khalistan? However, Khalistanis exist. They would be out of business if they don't support the farmers' agitation, which has become a mass movement in Punjab.

The merits (or demerits) of the farm laws apart, there is something mysterious about their origin. When exactly did



WHAT WAS EXPECTED OF THE GOVERNMENT WAS A NEW AGRICULTURAL POLICY, BROUGHT IN AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS. THIS COULD HAVE LINKED CERTAIN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN AGRICULTURE WITH THE MARKET

the Government discover this golden route to farmers' prosperity? Nothing remotely similar was promised in the BJP's election manifestoes of 2014 and 2019. In 2019, one whole page was devoted to 'Doubling Farmers' Income' (P13), out of which the Government has already fulfilled several promises. However, one would look in vain, hoping to find anything resembling the farm laws even in cryptic language there. The officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare did not seem to have any clue about these laws in February 2020 when they appeared before the Standing Committee on Agriculture in connection with the demand for grants (2020-21). They gave a different road map for doubling farmers' income while being quizzed by the Standing Committee. Yet, by June 5, 2020, the farm laws had been promulgated through the ordinance route.

While the Government is referring to the Shankar Lal Guru Committee (2000) and the MS Swaminathan Committee (2004-06) constituted by the previous Governments, it is mysteriously silent on the 14-volume report of the Committee for Doubling

Farmers' Income (2017-2018) chaired by Ashok Dalwai which this very Government had constituted. There was no such proposal in the DFI Committee recommendations to base the farm laws upon.

The rot in agriculture, despite the growth in production, goes deep. What was expected of the Government was a new agricultural policy, brought in after consultations with all stakeholders. This could have linked certain sustainable development goals in agriculture with the market. Demonising the APMC-run markets and the middlemen on the one hand, and on the other registering the same entities on the e-NAM (National Agricultural Market) portal and app in record numbers is paradoxical.

The ruling party should have invested efforts to build up a counterweight to the agitation. This could have been done by mobilising the silent majority of farmers peacefully outside the agitation belt. The party, however, seems to lack genuine base among farmers in sharp contrast with traders. For it, winning elections in five States is a priority.

(The writer is an author and independent researcher based in New Delhi. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GOV-CM TUSSLE IS UGLY AND SHAMEFUL

Sir— This refers to the editorial 'At cross-purposes' (February 16). The recent controversy involving Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari and Maha Vikas Agadi (MVA) Government led by Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray is a glaring example of how the power tussle between the titular head and the elected representative turns ugly sometimes. Both the CM and the Governor are not upholding the dignity of their respective offices but rather maligning its reputation.

This mudslinging must stop as soon as possible because the interests of the State and its people eventually suffer. Ultimately, the common citizens are at the receiving end of such cold wars but neither elected representative nor the Governor is concerned about it. This belittles the democracy and its institutions and could be fatal in the long run. It will set a wrong precedent and the younger generation of politicians will think that such disgraceful acts are quite normal in politics. Politicians these days have stooped to new lows and have no iota of shame in doing so. Because the Governors act like "caged parrot" acting on the diktats of their political masters, the State Governments perceive them as agents of the Centre.

It is the collective responsibility of all to ensure that such things do not become the order of the day. The Governor and the Chief Minister must sit together and resolve their differences through dialogue.

Nischai Vats | Sultanpur

ARREST ALL CONSPIRATORS

Sir—The arrest of climate activist Disha Ravi in the toolkit case by the Delhi Police's cyber crime cell shows the agility on the part of the Government to tighten the noose over anti-national elements. It also shows the commitment of Union Home Minister Amit Shah in hunting down those who conspire against the nation.

Those who conspire against the democratically elected Government must be taken to task. Disha Ravi and the likes of her are very dangerous for our nation

UAE's achievement no mean feat



It is heartening to know that the United Arab Emirates Space Agency on Sunday released its first photo of Mars, taken by its Hope Probe. It is indeed a great achievement by the UAE and shows its commitment towards science and technology. The Emirates Mars Mission cost approximately \$200 million. The Hope Probe was launched from a Japanese space centre. It is also

important to understand that the Mars programme is part of the UAE's efforts to develop its scientific and technological capabilities and reduce its reliance on oil.

At a time when the developed and developing nations are moving towards clean and green energy alternatives, the UAE's endeavour is really welcome and it is no mean feat. If the UAE, which is one of the leading producers and suppliers of petroleum fuel, switches to renewable energy alternatives then many countries across the world will follow suit. This mission will lead to new discoveries about Mars which will benefit humanity. The UAE mission became the first from an Arab country to reach the red planet. With this accomplishment, the reputation of the UAE has also increased. The UAE's space agency has plans for a Mars settlement by 2117. India must provide every possible help to the UAE Space Agency in future and should work in close coordination with it.

P Senthil | Mumbai

as such people in the name of freedom of speech and expression, miss no opportunity to incite violence against the lawfully established regime. They look out for dissatisfied or disgruntled groups and extend their sympathy. However, in lieu of this sympathy they try to execute their divisive agenda which is against the unity and integrity of the nation.

The freedom of speech and expression cannot be taken for granted. It should have some reasonable restrictions and limitations. The contents amounting to spreading hatred and violence should not be allowed to circulate on social media platforms. Her arrest will deter other anti-national elements who dare to conspire against the nation and its people.

Sravana Ramachandran | Chennai

ENCOURAGE EXPORT OF FOOD GRAINS

Sir—India should make such laws that promote easy export of accumulated stocks of food grains. Lakhs of metric tonnes of food grain worth crores of rupees

is wasted every year due to various reasons, and improper storage is one of them. The profit earned from the export of food grains should be shared with farmers directly into their bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer.

Middlemen should not be allowed to capture the export market. They have already captured the *mandis* and are in cahoots with babus and politicians. The poor Indian farmer can only watch helplessly as a large chunk of profit is usurped by these agents and corrupt officials. Also a part of the profits may be utilised for setting up facilities such as godowns and warehouses to shelter the harvest from sudden rain and other natural phenomenon, strengthening the transport network, encouraging farmers to adopt eco-friendly farming, use organic fertilisers.

Madhav P | Secunderabad

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

The agriculture reforms will benefit small and marginal farmers the most. Some people are propagating rumours against these reforms.



Prime Minister
—Narendra Modi



The leaders neither let me appoint people in key posts nor did they allow me to work smoothly. They ran an almost parallel Government and this compelled me to dissolve the House.

Nepal PM
—KP Sharma Oli



Anek is giving me the opportunity to explore India and marvel at its beauty like never before. After Assam, I am now in Shillong.

Actor
—Ayushmann Khurrana



Credit to India as they outplayed us in all the three departments. It has been a lesson for us.

England captain
—Joe Root



We've got to be very prudent and what we want to see is progress that is cautious but irreversible. I think that's what the people of the country want to see.

British Prime Minister
—Boris Johnson

Dust bowl politics

Some Englishmen say that the pitch for the second Test was spinner-friendly. This reeks of entitlement

What is a competitive cricket pitch? That might appear like a rhetorical question, but there is a simple answer. It is one which encourages either a result or an exciting draw, but the result should not be so lopsided that it comes within two-three days. So would the three-and-a-half days that the second Test match between India and England lasted at the Chepauk in Chennai be considered a competitive match? Yes, it should. Former English captain Michael Vaughan however did make his feelings about the pitch known on Twitter and he was rightly pilloried for it, even by some of his former teammates. As Ravichandran Ashwin displayed with his free-flowing skills with the willow, players could master the conditions even though England's spinners Moeen Ali and Jack Leach were not half as effective as Ashwin and debutant Axar Patel in bowling at the Indian batsmen. Or, were they? Frankly, other than a fabulous display by Mumbai star Rohit Sharma in the first innings and Ashwin himself in the second, the match might have been much, much closer. Little wonder then that many of the replies to Vaughan were that the conditions were the same for both the sides.

However, there is a level of entitlement that some foreign teams feel when they come to play in India, an entitlement that Indian teams are not allowed to have when they travel abroad and have to face green-top surfaces that help the home team's pacers and negate India's spinners. The blade should cut both ways; a home team should be allowed to take advantage of their local knowledge and conditions when preparing a pitch. However, the surface, as we have said above, must be competitive so that just in case someone from the visiting team plays a blinder, like several Indian players did in Australia, the results do not have to be *fait accompli*. There have been atrocious pitches prepared in the past, both in India and elsewhere, pitches that have done a disservice to the game of cricket by being so one-sided that one team had no chance but the Chennai pitch, despite the protestations of some Englishmen, was not one of them. India won the game fair and square, thanks to excellent play by some of their team members, setting up the next two games at the new Motera Stadium in Ahmedabad very well indeed.



FIRST COLUMN

POWERING UP THE GREEN FUEL SECTOR

The draft Bill is the bedrock of the revolution which will help India supply clean and affordable electricity



ARIJIT DAS

During this Budget Session, the Parliament is expected to consider the draft Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2021, that has proposed far-reaching changes, including measures for further "delicensing" the power distribution business. Under this provision, a consumer can change his/her choice of supplier and purchase electricity based on preference, tariff, clean energy the supplier is using or simply buy it from neighbours. This would be just like any mobile phone user switching or selecting the operator. The only difference is that the consumer will be using the same electricity wire, poles and transformer. This move is expected to improve efficiency and foster competition in the power sector. But more significantly, it will allow localised energy trading and hasten the adoption of renewable energy. Till now, India's green energy sector was riding on large solar installations, but it will soon reach a saturation point due to land scarcity and grid adaptability constraints. The report of the Expert Group on Energy pegged renewable capacity of 175 gigawatt (GW) by 2022, with a break-up of 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind and 15 GW from other sources. Out of the 100 GW of solar power, 40 GW is to be generated from rooftop panels, which at present seems unrealistic but should have been the core of the renewable development plan.



The Standing Committee on Energy (2019-20), Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, pointed out that there should have been an installed rooftop solar capacity of 16,000 MW by 2018-19, but as of October 15, 2019, the installed capacity was only 1,826 MW. This means that only 11.50 per cent of the target has been achieved so far. As of September 2020, the cumulative installation for large solar panels stands at 32 GW or 50 per cent of the target. Whereas rooftop solar panels only achieved eight per cent of the set target. Rooftop solar installation does not require dedicated land and can be installed in built-up areas, whereas, traditional solar plans require dedicated land. India has around 187 million residential units that have the potential to ramp up the installed capacity up to 90 GW. Adding commercial and other structure can even double the capacity.

While India is lagging, Australia is leading in solar rooftop installation where residential photovoltaic (PV) accounts for 61 per cent of installed PV capacity. There are over two million small-scale installations around the country with a capacity of eight GW. According to the University of New South Wales and APVI (Australian PV Institute), 21.6 per cent of all houses (excluding apartments) in Australia now have a PV system installed. Allowing peer-to-peer trading of electricity can open up infinite revenue models for a solar PV (with or without storage) investment. This has potential to improve income for peri-urban prosumers (consumer plus producer) who can now sell their electricity at a much higher price. Today, India is at the forefront of power sector reforms and is bringing changes through domestic and international initiatives. The 'Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY)' had helped in reducing the collective loss of utilities from about 24 per cent to 18 per cent of revenue. Setting up the International Solar Alliance (ISA) has brought countries together for reducing their carbon footprint by enhancing solar power production. To secure such transactions, the block-chain method should be experimented with extensively. This process will not only encourage faster rooftop adoption but will also create an opportunity for Indian entrepreneurs to capture the global market. In short, the proposed Bill is the bedrock of the green electricity revolution which will help India fulfil its objective of supplying clean and affordable electricity to all. (The writer is Fellow, India Development Foundation. The views expressed are personal.)

Towards a more free and equal internet

Privacy and free speech as a right have to be persevered for. We cannot leave it for the State and the platform to serve it to us

The internet, which touches almost all aspects of our lives, is the enabler of not just entertainment, education and business but also of our fundamental right to free speech and right to life. The US Supreme Court described social media as the "modern public square" owing to its importance for exercising the right to freedom of speech and expression. Every technology, be it a phone or a car, has the potential of being misused and the internet is no exception. It is ripe with challenges around online radicalisation, proliferation of child sexual abuse material (CSAM), drug trade on the dark web, cyber attacks, digital frauds, online harassment, trolling, gaslighting, doxing and do on. We have the law in place, the challenge here is its uniform application.

The law that stood the test of time: The internet, as we know it, is considered to be a creation of Section 230 of the American Communications Decency Act which envisages the concept of a "safe harbour." The principle of safe harbour entails that a platform, say Flipkart or Twitter, is not liable for the content posted by a third party, unless they have actual knowledge of the illegality of the post.

The Indian Supreme Court in the case of Shreya Singhal vs Union of India case (2014) reaffirmed this approach to ensure that the platforms do not censor the voice of the people. The apex court ruled that the platforms are only liable if they have "actual knowledge" of the illegality and they can only receive this through legal warrants from the State (the judicial or executive wing). This way, the platform would not censor speech of the people for fear of legal sanction.

Between the devil and the deep blue sea: As society realised the network effect of social media platforms, its use for building "social capital" and earning "political mileage" became the next big thing. Along with exchanging greetings, soon it became a platform for sharing news and even fake news, disinformation and hate speeches. The State, which has a legitimate interest in ensuring a safe online space, asked the platform to censor such speech. The regime in America has attempted to turn tables and asked the platforms to "earn" safe harbour immunity by curtailing CSAM. Similarly in India, the Draft Information Technology Guidelines, 2018 (not yet enforced, still in draft stage), went ahead and asked the platforms to proactively monitor and censor illegal speech if they wish to continue enjoying the safe harbour. This goes against the very idea of "actual knowledge" where platforms were mandated to act on receiving "actual knowledge." If proactive monitoring is permitted, the platforms will basically be interpreting if a particular speech falls under the restrictions envisaged in Article 19(2) of the Indian Constitution, rendering the platforms the "arbiter of truth and justice." This is exactly what the apex court in the Shreya Singhal case attempted to obviate, because reasonably restricting free speech is the sole domain of the State and not private players.

Now on one hand, the platforms are being mandated to curtail illegal speech or else lose safe harbour protection and on the other hand, if the platform moderates the content, then this leads to another set of challenges like "viewpoint discrimination." The situation is aggravated as due to the fear of losing protection, the platforms are



THE COMMUNITY GUIDELINES GOVERNING THE CONTENT MODERATION POLICIES OF THE PLATFORM MUST BE DRAFTED KEEPING IN MIND THE PECULIAR SENSITIVITIES OF THE USER BASE. IT IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE USERS TO FLAG CONTENT WHICH VIOLATES THE COMMUNITY GUIDELINES AND ALSO GIVE CONSISTENT FEEDBACK TO THE PLATFORM IF THERE ARE CHANGES REQUIRED IN THE NORMS

Rizvi is founder and Tiwari is programme manager, The Dialogue. The views expressed are personal.



likely to overcompensate and restrict any speech in the grey area to be on the safe side, which would have a "chilling effect" on the free speech of the users. So in such circumstances how should the platform react and how can users bring about a meaningful change in the status quo?

The way forward: Ensuring online safety is a constant negotiation between the platform, the State and the user. How this negotiation proceeds is dependent on the values and the belief systems of society, the negotiating power of the platform and the interest demonstrated by the users. For instance, the users along with the civil society flagged the challenges in WhatsApp's latest Privacy Policy Update, forcing WhatsApp to delay its enforcement and come back after attaining the confidence of the users. But it is not always for the user to negotiate as a collective, it is crucial that the State represents those interests. For instance, a data regulator who could review the data collection policies of all apps functioning in India and ensure that user security and privacy is maintained at all times. The platform, too, needs to adopt international best practices to tackle modern challenges pertaining to online safety and ensure an inclusive internet ecosystem. It is the marginalised communities that face the brunt of content moderation or who face abuse in the digital space. Be it a poor Dalit woman, who carries the triple burden, being trolled

or just a conscientious dissenter whose speech is curated as defamatory. These challenges are aggravated when there is not enough representation from marginalised communities in the content moderation teams of the platforms. What then is the solution?

Soft law on platform regulation: The platforms need to agree and adhere to higher norms of transparency, accountability and internationally recognised human rights to build user trust. The Manila Principles on Intermediary Liability envisage six broad principles which build upon the ideas of "safe harbour" and "due process", "transparency" and "accountability" in the process of platform regulation. Similarly, the Santa Clara Principles on Transparency and Accountability in Content Moderation provide three broad guiding principles, i.e., "Number", "Notice" and "Appeal." This entails that the platform must declare the number of posts that it moderated, it must give notice to the users before flagging their content along with an opportunity to appeal against the decision of the platform.

The need of the hour is to operationalise and uniformly apply these principles, irrespective of the stature of the user. The rules for platform regulation should be equal for all. Moderators from different classes and communities should be hired to ensure an inclusive ecosystem. It is crucial that all platforms come up with detailed numbers or "transparency reports" which high-

light the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the posts moderated. Such datasets would help researchers understand the possible biases that crept in and remove them. But the law can only do so much unless the users participate in this process.

Community participation: While joining any platform we enter into a contract with it, wherein we agree to adhere by the rules for using their service. A crucial limb of this contract are the community guidelines that we have to follow. It is imperative, now more than ever, that we as users engage with the platform. Privacy and free speech as a right have to be persevered for. We cannot leave it for the State and the platform to serve it to us. If we as users want those rights then we need to engage in the policy-making process. The community guidelines governing the content moderation policies of the platform must be drafted keeping in mind the peculiar sensitivities of the user base. It is equally important for the users to flag content which violates the community guidelines and also give consistent feedback to the platform if there are changes required in the norms. The space of technology is ever-evolving and new challenges will emerge every few years. There is no silver bullet which can resolve challenges. It is constant negotiation among the users, the platform and the State that will lead towards a more stable and progressive internet ecosystem.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

FOR THE SAKE OF A HEALTHY DEMOCRACY IN INDIA, I URGE ALL MODI HATERS TO STOP RALLYING BEHIND THE DYNASTY.

—ACTOR RANVIR SHOREY



INSTEAD OF PREACHING AGAINST OTHERS, YOU SHOULD BE MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR CAREER WHICH IS PRACTICALLY OVER.

—CONGRESS LEADER GAURAV PANDHI



India must become the skill capital of the world

We should work towards breaking down barriers in international labour supply to ensure hassle-free movement of talent

The Indian diaspora can be found across almost every nation in the world and most of them are successful immigrants contributing to the larger good of the country they have chosen to live in. What has underpinned the success story of Indian emigrants across the globe has been their ability to leverage their personal skills, work hard and adapt to the local community. From the indentured labourers in Fiji and Mauritius to Punjabi farmers in Canada, to the more recent technology consultants in Europe and America, the Indian emigrant is a story of success.

Amid the current geopolitical churn, as India tries to cement its position in the new world order that is taking shape, its people can be its greatest strength. With 10 to 12 million youth entering the workforce every year, India



MANAVENDRA PRASAD MANISH KUMAR

Prasad is a public policy consultant and Kumar works with the international division of the Confederation of Indian Industry. The views expressed are personal.

should not only train and skill them for the domestic economy but for the world also. Apart from the current health crisis creating a great demand for healthcare professionals, in many other trades such as oil and gas, construction, diamond processing and Information Technology (IT), too, India has the advantage of skilling its youth for the global market.

There is clearly a demand for skilled talent from a wide variety of nations that include Scandinavian countries, Russia, Italy, Germany and even East European nations like Romania. Many of them have a State-supported programme to attract international talent. One such example is 'Talent Boost' in Finland.

India should leverage its image as a benign power with a strong democratic tradition and tolerant society to create

partnerships with such countries, quite like that announced with Japan recently. A Government to Government (G2G) arrangement secures better terms for migrant workers and ensures better protection of their rights.

A part of the G2G arrangement should be to allow India's National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) being accepted in the receiving country. If required, bespoke programmes can be created under the NSQF or bridge modules may be introduced to meet the assessment and certification framework of the receiving country. We could look to create regional centres of excellence, specifically for training of youth for international markets.

India should create formal and structured pathways for labour mobility by the private sector. There exist many organisations that facilitate this inter-



national mobility, but a code of conduct will prevent any potential exploitation of migrating workers. International mobility of labour should become an essential part of India's economic diplomacy. We should work towards breaking down barriers in international labour supply to ensure hassle-free movement of talent.

This approach to skilling in

India has multiple advantages. It helps the Indian youth find gainful employment and helps to channelise their energy towards productive purposes. This will also give a great boost to the international remittances India receives annually. This in turn will contribute to the growth of the country's economy and help improve our living standards.

Hard-working youth contributing to the host country's economic growth will help enhance India's soft power. The host country benefits from accepting migrants who are tolerant, adaptable and easy to assimilate. The IT professional's contribution in changing India's image as a country of "snake charmers and bullock carts" cannot be exaggerated.

Further, those workers who choose to return home will contribute to the domestic economy by bringing new

knowledge, experiences and methods that will enhance productivity.

India could leverage the G2G partnerships to bring in world-class pedagogy, technology, curriculum, content and the infrastructure required for the delivery of vocational education.

We should aspire to become the skill capital of the world. India needs to enter into cooperation agreements with many more countries, like it has done with Japan, to build formidable partnerships in areas of skill development. It is only then that it will transform into an international skills hub.

It is, however, a surprise that the recently-launched 'Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana' 3.0 fails to elucidate the Government's strategy to achieve this aspiration. It lacks the road map to make India the skill capital of the world by

overlooking the chronic challenges of quality infrastructure, training, pedagogy and the involvement of international partners in the delivery of skilling programmes.

The new normal of the post-COVID world presents exciting opportunities for India to leverage its power in the skilling sphere, because it has brought a completely new framework for virtual operations with robust digital platforms to deliver skilling programmes to trainees and connect them to international employers.

The Government should move quickly to formulate policies to address the vital aspect of international mobility for our youth in a post-COVID world by imagining new paradigms of digital skilling by augmenting the adoption of digital technologies.

Rockets strike near US base in Iraq

Killing one US-led coalition contractor and wounding at least eight other people

AP ■ BAGHDAD
Rockets struck outside an airport near where US forces are based in northern Iraq late on Monday, killing one US-led coalition contractor and wounding at least eight other people, Iraqi security and coalition officials said, sparking fears of new hostilities.

At least three rockets hit areas between the civilian Irbil international airport in the semi-autonomous Kurdish-run region and the nearby base hosting US troops at 9:30 pm. No one immediately claimed responsibility.

One civilian contractor with the coalition was killed and five others wounded, coalition spokesman US Army Col. Wayne Marotto said. One US



A wall is damaged in a residential complex after rockets attack in Irbil, Iraq on Tuesday. AP

Service member was wounded, he said. He did not reveal the nationality of the dead contractor and said this was under investigation. At least two civilians were

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity in line with regulations.

Iraqi President Barham Saleh condemned the attack, saying in a statement posted online that it marked a "dangerous escalation". Kurdish authorities cautioned Irbil residents to stay away from targeted areas and remain in their homes.

In a later statement, a little-known Shiite militant group calling itself the Guardians of Blood Brigade claimed responsibility for the attack. It claimed firing 24 rockets that avoided the airport's defenses, specifically naming an automatic machine gun known as a C-RAM that protects American installations in Iraq.

"The American occupation will not be safe from our strikes in any inch of the homeland, even in Kurdistan, where we promise we will carry out other qualitative operations," the claim said, according to the SITE Intelligence Group.

Attacks targeting Irbil airport are rare, with Monday's rockets the first to strike the area in five months.

B'lesh sentences 5 to death for killing blogger Avijit Roy

PTI ■ DHAKA
A special anti-terrorism tribunal on Tuesday sentenced five members of a banned Islamist militant group, including a fugitive army Major, to death and a sixth man to life in prison for the killing of prominent Bangladeshi-American atheist blogger Avijit Roy in 2015.

Roy was hacked to death by Islamist militants just after he left a book fair at the Dhaka University on February 26, 2015. His wife Rafida Ahmed was also injured in the attack. The 42-year-old Bangladeshi-born US citizen was an outspoken critic of religious fundamentalism. Judge Mojibur Rahman of Dhaka's Anti-Terrorism Special Tribunal court sentenced five militants, including fugitive army major Sayed Ziaul Haque, to death in the Roy murder case.

"They will be hanged to death until they are dead," said Judge Rahman when four of the convicts appeared on the dock under heavy security.

Another convict, Safur Rahman Farabi, was jailed for life.

Four of the five convicts who received capital punishment are Md Muzzammel Hussain alias Saimon alias Shahriar, Md Abu Siddiqi Sohel alias Sakib alias Sajid alias

Shahab, Md Arafat Rahman and Akram Hossain alias Abir. Besides sacked Major Haque, Abir is also on the run.

The judge also fined these convicts Tk 50,000 each, besides handing capital punishment to them.

The verdict came 18 months after the fast track tribunal indicted six militants of outlawed Ansar Al Islam, also known as Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT) for murdering Roy. The judgment said that Roy "laid down his life for freedom of writing and expressing his opinion" while the killers targeted him to obstruct the freedom of expression and discourage others to write anything freely and express their opinion in future.

Son of a senior university professor and physicist, Roy had migrated to the United States in his 20s from where he used to run his Mukto-Mona (Free-mind) blog campaigning against organized religions.

"The Virus of Faith" was one of his books that became bestseller in Bangladesh, a Muslim majority country.

Tuesday's verdict came nearly a week after Judge Rahman on Wednesday sentenced to death eight Islamic militants, including sacked Major Haque, for killing Roy's publisher Faisal Arefin Dipon.

GLOBE TROTTER

TURKEY DETAINS WANTED ISIS TERRORIST AT BORDER
Ankara: Three New Zealand citizens were detained while attempting to illegally cross into Turkey from Syria, Turkey's Defence Ministry said. A ministry statement posted on Twitter on Monday said the group included a 26-year-old woman wanted on an Interpol notice for allegedly belonging to the extremist Islamic State group. The woman was identified only by her initials SA. The three were caught by border security units while trying to sneak into the town of Reyhanli, in Hatay province, the ministry said.

AT LEAST 3 DEAD IN NORTH CAROLINA TORNADO
Wilmington: A tornado ripped through North Carolina's Brunswick County, killing at least three people and injuring 10 others in its trail of destruction, authorities said. The tornado hit just after midnight Tuesday in southeastern Brunswick County near Grissetown in the Ocean Ridge Plantation Community, destroying homes, downing powerlines that left thousands without electricity and snapping trees in half.

REPORT: IRAN AND RUSSIA BEGIN JOINT NAVAL DRILL
Tehran: Iranian and Russian militaries have kicked off a joint naval drill in the Indian Ocean aimed at boosting security of maritime trade in the region, Iran's state TV reported on Tuesday. The TV said units from Iran's Navy and the powerful Revolutionary Guard's navy will take part in the exercise dubbed "Iran-Russia Maritime Security Belt 2021" in the northern part of Indian Ocean, spanning a stretch of about a 17,000 kilometers (10,600 miles).

US-led coalition: Attack in Iraq killed contractor

AP ■ BAGHDAD
A US-led coalition contractor was killed and an unspecified number of other civilians were wounded when a barrage of rockets struck outside an airport near where US forces are based in northern Iraq, Iraqi security and coalition officials said.

More than a dozen rockets hit late Monday in areas between the civilian international airport in the city of Irbil in Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish-run region and the nearby base hosting US troops.

A little-known Shiite terrorist group calling itself Saraya

Awliya al-Dam, Arabic for Guardians of Blood Brigade, claimed responsibility for the attack.

US Army Col. Wayne Marotto said on Tuesday a civilian contractor with the coalition who was not a US citizen was killed. He did not provide further details about the citizenship of the killed contractor.

Marotto also said a US military serviceman and eight civilian contractors were wounded in the assault. An unspecified number of Iraqi and Kurdish civilians were wounded as rockets hit busy residential areas close to the

airport. The coalition confirmed that 107 mm rockets, a total of 14, were launched, with three impacting an airbase hosting US troops.

The Trump administration had said that the death of a US contractor would be a red line and provoke a US Escalation in Iraq against Iran-backed groups.

The December 2019 killing of a US civilian contractor in a rocket attack in province of Kirkuk sparked a tit-for-tat fight on Iraqi soil that brought the country to the brink of a proxy war. The official position of President Joe Biden is not yet clear.

Suu Kyi faces new charge as crackdown intensifies

AP ■ YANGON
Police in Myanmar filed a new charge against ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi, her lawyer said on Tuesday, in a move that may allow her to be held indefinitely without trial as part of an intensifying crackdown by authorities who seized power in a coup.

Suu Kyi, who was deposed and detained in the military takeover on February 1, already faced a charge of illegally possessing walkie-talkies — an apparent attempt to provide a legal veneer for her house arrest.

Under the new charge, she is accused of breaking a law that has been used to prosecute people who have violated coronavirus restrictions, lawyer Khin Maung Zaw told reporters after meeting with a judge in a court in the capital, Naypyitaw.

It carries a maximum punishment of three years in prison. But, perhaps more worryingly, because of changes to the Penal Code instituted by the junta last week, it could allow her to be detained indefinitely, even without a court's permission.

Suu Kyi's lawyer told reporters he has not seen her since her arrest — and only arrived after an unexpected videoconference the judge said had been held with her.

The legal maneuver comes two weeks after the military seized power in a coup that shocked many in the international community who had been hopeful that Myanmar was taking steps toward democracy. Since then, the junta has ratcheted up the pressure on protesters resisting the takeover, including violently breaking up some demonstrations and blocking internet access.

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France votes on anti-radicalism Bill that worries Muslims

AP ■ PARIS
France's lower house of parliament is voting Tuesday on a bill that would strengthen Government oversight of mosques and religious schools and crack down on polygamy and forced marriage, among other measures aimed at rooting out Islamic radicalism.

The Bill is part of broader French efforts to fight extremism in recent years that gained new urgency after a teacher was beheaded in October and other attacks. President Emmanuel Macron says the efforts are also needed to protect French values like gender equality and secularism from encroaching fundamentalism in some communities.

But many French Muslims say the draft law limits religious freedom and unfairly targets them, and say France already has enough laws to fight terrorist violence. Critics call the bill a political maneuver by Macron to win support from conservative and far-right voters ahead of next year's presidential election.

DIRECTORATE GENERAL (MEDICAL BRANCH), CENTRAL RESERVE POLICE FORCE,

East Block- 7, Level- 1, R.K. Puram Sector - 1, New Delhi- 10066 (MHA/GOI) CIRCULAR

Filling up the post of Sub-Inspector (Vet Compounder) in Central Reserve Police Force (Ministry of Home Affairs) on Deputation basis
Central Reserve Police Force, intends to fill up 01 (One) temporary post of Sub-Inspector (Vet Compounder), General Central Services Group 'B', Non-Gazetted (Non-Ministerial) in level-6 of the pay matrix of 7th CPC (pre-revised PB-2 Rs. 9300-34800 with Grade Pay of Rs. 4200 as per 6th CPC) and other allowances admissible to the (Combedised) Central Govt Employee from time to time. These posts are to be filled up from officers in the Central Government or State Government or Union Territories on deputation basis. The educational and other eligibility conditions for this post are as under :-

- Officer in the Central Government or State Government or Union territories.
- (a) (i) Holding analogous post on a regular basis in the parent cadre of department ; or
 - (ii) with ten years regular service rendered after appointment in level-4 Rs. 25500-81100/- of the pay matrix; and
 - (b) Possessing the following educational qualification and experience -
 - (i) Pass in veterinary Stock Assistant course from a recognized institute, and
 - (ii) Three years field experience in the treatment of various species of animals particularly equine and canine from any Central or State veterinary hospital and able to manage or run veterinary hospital of dispensary.

- Note 1** : The period of deputation including the period of deputation in another ex-cadre post held immediately preceding this appointment in the same or some other organization or department or the Central Government shall ordinarily not exceed three years.
- Note 2** : The maximum age limit for appointment by deputation shall not be exceeding fifty two years as on the closing date of receipt of application.
- Note 3** : The departmental candidates in the feeder category who are in the direct line of promotion shall not be eligible for consideration for appointment on deputation and similarly, deputationist shall not be eligible for consideration for appointment by promotion.

2. The applicants, if selected, are liable to serve anywhere in India. The candidate who applies for the post, will not be allowed to withdraw their candidature subsequently. The Department will also be vested with the powers for preparation of panel for filling up of vacancies, if any, so arises in future, in addition to fill up above posts. The medical category of the candidate should be SHAPE-1 and an attested copy of same must be enclosed with the application form. Attested photocopies of APAR dossiers for the last five years are to be enclosed with application by the Head of Office/Controlling Officer while forwarding the application. It should also be certified that the information furnished by the candidate/applicant is true and there is no disciplinary proceedings/prosecution for criminal proceedings are pending or being contemplated against him and his integrity is beyond doubt. Photocopies of all educational certificates are to be enclosed alongwith the application.

3. Therefore, all eligible and willing candidates may submit their application in the enclosed proforma duly filled up properly through proper channel so as to reach to the IG/Director (Medical) Dte. CRPF, East Block-7, Level- 1, R.K. Puram Sector -1 New Delhi - 110066 within 45 days from the date of publication of this Circular in the Employment News. Following documents must be attached alongwith the application form :-

1. Attested photo copies of all requisite educational certificates.
 2. Attested photocopy of Degree or Diploma Certificate related to veterinary therapeutic or live stock management.
 3. Photocopy of experience certificate of treatment of various species of animals.
 4. Photocopy of complete APAR for the last five years (2014-15 to 2018-19) duly attested by competent authority.
 5. NOC from parent department.
 6. Vigilance and Integrity certificate.
 7. Details of Major/Minor punishment, if any, awarded during the last 10 years.
 8. Latest/Valid Annual Medical Examination report duly attested by competent authority.
4. The candidates called for the examination/interview must bring their original certificates during the examination/interview otherwise, they will not be entertained.
5. The Department have the rights to cancel/amend any clause as mentioned above without intimation to the candidate.

Sd. 14/08/2020 (Dr. Rabindra Kumar) Dy. Director (Med) Dte. Dvnp 19140/11/0012/2021

Turkey vows to expand anti-PKK operations in Iraq

Ankara: Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed on Tuesday to expand cross-border operations against Kurdish militants in northern Iraq, following the killing of 13 Turkish soldiers, police and civilians who had been abducted by Kurdish insurgents.

In a speech to his ruling party's supporters, Erdogan also said that the killings have strengthened Turkey's will to form a secure zone along its border in northern Iraq to protect Turkey's frontiers from the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK.

The bodies of the 13 victims were discovered in a cave complex in northern Iraq's Gara region, near the Turkish border, during an operation against the PKK, launched on Feb. 10, that had aimed to free the hostages.

Biden faces questions about commitment to minimum wage hike

AP ■ WASHINGTON
Union activist Terrence Wise recalls being laughed at when he began pushing for a national \$15 per hour minimum wage almost a decade ago. Nearly a year into the pandemic, the idea isn't so funny.

The coronavirus has renewed focus on challenges facing hourly employees who have continued working in grocery stores, gas stations and other in-person locations even as much of the workforce has shifted to virtual environments.

President Joe Biden has responded by including a provision in the massive pandemic relief bill that would more than double the minimum wage from the current \$7.25 to \$15 per hour. But the effort is facing an unexpected roadblock: Biden himself. The president has seemingly undermined the push to raise the minimum wage by acknowledging its dim prospects in Congress, where it faces political opposition and procedural hurdles.

That's frustrating to activists like Wise, who worry their victory is being snatched away at the last minute despite an administration that's otherwise an outspoken ally.

"To have it this close on the doorstep, they need to get it done," said Wise, a 41-year-old department manager at a McDonald's in Kansas City and a national leader of Fight for 15, an organized labour movement.

Malaysia to deport 1,200 Myanmar migrants, but not Rohingyas

AP ■ KUALA LUMPUR
Tuesday that there may be vulnerable women and children among the group. Myanmar's leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, was detained as the military seized power on February 1, sparking protests in the country.

Malaysia's immigration chief, Khairul Dzamee Daud, said in a statement late Monday that the detainees will be deported February 23 on Myanmar navy ships.

Malaysia's Government will repatriate 1,200 Myanmar migrants next week despite a military coup in their home country, but has assured that they will not include minority Muslim Rohingyas refugees or those registered with the UN refugee agency. But the UN High Commissioner for Refugees voiced concern

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform you that Late Mr Vinod Brijlal Chopra (Vinod Chopra) (Adhar No. 99058533381) S/o Late Shri Brijlal Chopra R/o B-119, Sector-105, Noida Distt. G.B. Nagar U.P. has a house in Noida whose house no is B-119, Sector-105, Noida G.B. Nagar (U.P.) is registered at sub registrar office IInd in Vide Book No. 1, Volume no. 8181, at page no. from 319-356, Document No.9084 on 05.09.2016. So above house is being transferred to the name of Karan Manocha (Pan No. ABFPM9426J) S/o Sh. Mahinder Manocha R/o B-119, Sector-105, Noida Distt. G.B. Nagar (U.P.) on the basis of registered will. So all related people is informed that if anyone has any objection about transfer of above property, then he submit his objection in Noida Authority Residential department with all document proof within 30 days from the publishing date of this information. Karan Manocha

CSB Bank
Formerly The Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.
B-1A/6, Sector 51, Commercial Market, Noida 201 301

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the gold ornaments pledged in this branch and not released after proper notices, will be auctioned at 3.00 pm on Thursday, 25th of February 2021 at Noida Branch of The CSB Bank Ltd., located at B-1A/6, Commercial Market, Sector-51, Noida, Gautam Budh Nagar, U.P.-201301

Sl. No.	Name of borrower	Gross Weight of Pledge items (in grams)	Overdue Loan no.	Gold Account no.	Amount	Balance as on 16-02-2021
1	Gouri	176.1	0297-07272022-000001		Rs. 647518/-	Rs. 686,828/- + Interest.
2	Raj kumar	55.89	0297-07272259-000001		Rs. 199000/-	Rs. 210828/- + Interest
3	Raj kumar	51.7	0297-07272259-000002		Rs. 193000/-	Rs. 201839/- + Interest
4	Prabir	66.90	0297-04052212-000003		Rs. 199000/-	Rs.210,506.25/- + Interest

Bank retains all rights to cancel/postpone the auction in case of necessity.
Place: Noida
Date: 16-02-2021
BRANCH MANAGER
Contact: 9072601297 ; 8791921272

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Open E-Tender Notice
The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Freight, Northern Railway, Delhi Division, New Delhi invites e-tender for the following work:

Name of Work with its location/ Office
Hiring of one M.U.V (Toyota Innova/Chevrolet Tavera, Mahindra Xylo/ Scorpio, Maruti Ertiga, Tata Safari or Similar Vehicle) for Multifarious Jobs of Freight operations, under the control of Sr. DCM/Freight, for a period of two years, for 2400 KMS and 300 Hours of Duty per month and seven days a week, at commercial Department, DRM Office, Northern Railway, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

Earnest Cost of work Rs.39,189.00 per month or Rs.9,40,536.00 (Inclusive of all other taxes) + GST as applicable @ for a period of two years

Date & time of submission of e-tender bid and opening of e-tender 11.03.2021 at 15.00 hrs.

Cost of Tender document including 18% GST Rs.2360.00

Earnest Money Deposit Rs.18900.00

Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen https://tenders.gov.in/ & Tender no. Vehicle Hiring 01-2021

संख्या. No. 1C/04/Hiring of Vehicle/Freight/Office Duty/2021
दिनांक. 16 February 2021
343/2021
Serving Customers With A Smile

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to public at large that my client Smt. Chanchal Rani W/o Late Shri. Singh Kumar, R/o WZ-92A/2, Gali No. 14A/2, Sadh Nagar, Palam Colony, New Delhi, is owner and in possession of above said property. The son of my client Ashwani Kumar and his wife Asha and their daughter namely Nidhi are out of her control and due to their misbehavior & misconduct, my client has no concern with them and disowned them from all her movable and immovable properties, present and future for all purpose and intent. If any person deals with them in any manner whatsoever, shall be his own risk and responsibility and my client shall not be responsible for any loss or damage or any liability. They are not in talking terms with my client. All relationships between them and my client have been broken down permanently.
VIKRAM SANI
Advocate

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice is hereby given by Mrs. PremLata Devi W/o Mr. Ranjeet who is the owner of LAND MEASURING 30.00 SQ. YDS. OUT OF KHASRA NO. 125, SITTING AT KALA ENCLAVE KHORA ENCLAVE PARGANA LONI, TEHSIL & DISTT:- GHAZIABAD, U.P. That the Original Sale Deed dated 20.02.2001 executed by Mr. Samay Singh in favour of Mr. Sadhu Saran Dass for Khasra No. 125 Situated at Kala Enclave, Khora, District:- Pargana Loni, Tehsil & Distt:- Ghaziabad, U.P. (Doc. No. 1122) in respect of above mentioned property has been lost. Public is being warned not to deal with the said document. Any person dealing with the said document would do so at their own risk & responsibility. Owner shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person. If anybody found these document or notices any misuse of the above mentioned document, Concern person is required to communicate in writing to the undersigned, at below address:
Lucem Legal LLP
259, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South Extn.II, New Delhi-49. Contact #011-40046316

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified person, **Named** : Rajkumar, S/o: Amar Nath, R/o: Unknown, **Age**: about 55-60 years, **Height** : 5'7", **Complexion** : Shallow, **Face** : Oval, **Built** : Thin, **Wearing** : Blue colour kurta and brown colour payjama has been found dead at Rain Basera No. 681, Asaf Ali Road, opposite Delhi Stock Exchange, Darya Ganj, Delhi on 25.01.2021. In this regard a case vide GD No. 19-A Dated 25.01.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi. The dead body has been preserved for 72 hours in MAMC Mortuary, Delhi.

Any person having any information or clue about this dead found person may kindly inform to the following:-
SHO : P.S. Darya Ganj, Delhi Central Distt., Delhi
Tel. No. 011-23274683, 23279331
DP/655/CD/2021

SC AGROTECH LIMITED
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS SHEEL INTERNATIONAL LIMITED)
CIN: L01122DL1990PLC042207
Regd Address: RZ-1484/28, Ground Floor, Tughlakabad Ext. New Delhi-110019
Email: sheel102@gmail.com, Web: www.scagrotech.com, Ph: 9654056648

Statement of Un Audited Standalone Financial Result For The Quarter And Nine Months Ended On 31.12.2020 (Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	Particulars	Quarter Ended 31.12.2020	Nine Months Ended 31.12.2020	Corresponding 03 Months Ended 31.12.2019	Year Ended 31.03.2020
1	Total Income From operation	18.03	67.88	18.00	72.10
2	Total Expenses	17.08	64.45	16.79	67.02
3	Net profit/(loss) for the period (before tax, Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items)	0.95	3.43	1.21	5.08
4	Net profit/(loss) for the period (before tax, after Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items)	0.95	3.43	1.21	5.08
5	Net profit/(loss) for the period after tax and Exceptional and /or Extraordinary items	0.95	3.43	1.21	5.08
6	Total comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising profit/(loss) for the period (after tax))	0.95	3.43	1.21	5.08
7	Paid up equity Share capital/face value of Rs 10/- each)	599.50	599.50	599.50	599.50
8	Earning per share (of Rs 10/-Each)	-	-	-	-

BASIC and Diluted Earning per share (in Rs)

1. The above is an Extract of the detailed format of Quarterly financial result filed with Stock Exchange under reg 33 of the SEBI LODR 2015. The full format of the Quarterly financial result are available on the (www.scagrotech.com) website of the Stock Exchange (s) viz www.bseindia.com and the listed entity.

2. The result of the Quarter and Nine months ended on 31st December 2020 were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Director its Meeting held on 14/02/2021.
By Order of the Board for SC AGROTECH LIMITED
(Nitin Maheshwari)
Executive Director (DIN: 03459767)
Place : New Delhi
Date : 14.02.2021

India's GDP expected to grow by 0.7% in 3rd quarter: ICRA

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Principal Economist Aditi Nayar: "Encouragingly, almost all the non-agricultural lead indicators that we track, recorded a continued, albeit uneven, improvement in volume terms in Q3 FY2021. This pickup benefitted from the continued unlocking of the economy, uptick in consumption during the festive season, as well as higher Central government spending. Moreover, most of the tracked indicators rebounded to a growth on a YoY basis in that quarter, although this was on the low base of Q3 FY2020."

But sectors such as aviation continued to contract in Q3 FY2021.

ICRA noted that the Index of Industrial Production recorded a sedate 1 per cent rise in the just-concluded quarter while rising raw material prices contributed to lower margins in some sectors.

According to ICRA's

Bitcoin gains acceptance across world, crosses \$50,000 mark

AP ■ SILVER SPRING (US)

After a wild week in which Bitcoin soared to new heights, Bitcoin crossed the \$50,000 mark early Tuesday.

Bitcoin rallied throughout as more companies signalled the volatile digital currency could eventually gain widespread acceptance as a means of payment for goods and services. Bitcoin has been mostly seen as a store of value, like gold, with very few places to spend it.

Then, last Monday, Elon Musk's electric car company, Tesla, said it had bought \$1.5 billion of Bitcoin as part of a new investment strategy and would soon be accepting it as form of payment for its high-end cars. It remains unclear how many major companies will follow Tesla's lead. Analysts predict a slow evolution toward widespread usage of bitcoins to pay for goods and services.

Govt to bring amendments to two Acts to enable privatisation of PSU banks

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

To facilitate privatisation of public sector banks, the government is likely to bring amendments to two legislations later this year.

Amendments would be required in the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980 for privatisation, sources said. These Acts led to nationalisation of banks in two phases and provisions of these laws have to be changed for privatisation of banks, they said.

As the government has already announced the list of legislative business for the Budget session, it is expected that these amendments may be introduced in the Monsoon session or later during the year, sources added. The ongoing Budget session is scheduled to take up as many as 38 Bills

Sensex, Nifty end marginally lower; PowerGrid rallies 6 pc

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty ended marginally lower on Tuesday as investors booked profits at higher levels amid a mixed trend in global markets.

After touching a lifetime high of 52,516.76 in the opening session, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 49.96 points or 0.10 per cent lower at 52,104.17.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty inched 1.25 points or 0.01 per cent lower to close at 15,313.45.

Axis Bank was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, shedding 2.42 per cent, followed by ICICI Bank, Infosys, Nestle India, SBI, TCS and HUL.

On the other hand, PowerGrid rallied over 6 per cent. ONGC, NTPC, Kotak Bank, Reliance Industries and Maruti Suzuki were among the other gainers.

"Market, though volatile, kept its momentum during the morning hours, however, failing to hold on to it due to a weak opening of European

₹ settles flat at 72.69 against US \$

Mumbai: The Indian rupee settled just 1 paisa lower at 72.69 against the US dollar on Tuesday as importers' greenback purchases offset the impact of a weak dollar overseas.

At the interbank forex market, the local unit opened at 72.64 against the American

Focus on infra spending in Budget 2021 expected to boost petrochemicals demand

New Delhi: The Govt on Tuesday said it expects more demand for petrochemicals like polymers and specialty chemicals in the country due to increased emphasis on infrastructure spending in the Budget 2021-22. Increased spending on infrastructure development in sectors like agriculture, healthcare and automobiles will result in increased demand for petrochemicals, according to an official statement. That apart, import duty cut on feedstocks such as naphtha for production of chemicals and petrochemicals will make the domestic products globally cost-competitive, it added.

"The massive emphasis on infrastructure spending is expected to result in an additional consumption of petrochemicals like polymers and specialty chemicals," the statement said.

Sharp jump in petrol, diesel prices for 8th consecutive day

IAN S ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices continued to rise on Tuesday, the eighth consecutive day when the retail prices have risen across the country, with oil on the boil in global markets and both crude and product prices seeing a big spike.

Accordingly, oil marketing companies raised the pump price of diesel by a high level of 35 paise per litre and petrol by another 30 paise per litre in Delhi.

With this increase, petrol is now priced at Rs 89.29 a litre and diesel Rs 79.70 a litre in the capital.

In the last seven days, the price has gone up by Rs 2.36 per litre for petrol while diesel rate has risen by Rs 2.91 a litre.

Across the country as well the petrol prices increase ranged from 26-32 paise per

RailTel IPO subscribed 2.64 times on first day

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The initial public offer of telecom infrastructure provider RailTel Corporation of India was subscribed 2.64 times on the first day of subscription on Tuesday.

The Rs 819.24-crore offer received bids for 16,13,74,220 shares as against 6,11,95,923 shares on offer, as per an update on the NSE. The category meant for non-institutional investors was subscribed 75 per cent and those for Retail Individual Investors (RIIs) got subscribed 4.99 times.

NMC approves factory licence on all floors on industrial plots

North Delhi Mayor Jai Prakash on Tuesday informed that in order to create more employment opportunities and utilization of existing industrial infrastructure North Delhi Municipal Corporation has approved the factory licence on all floors in confirmed plotted industrial areas in its jurisdiction.

He said that North DMC has approved granting of factory licence on all floors for medium, light and service industries only where the building plan is already available for ground floor as pre existing norms. He said that any industrial unit holder can apply for the factory licence through an online application process on the official website of North DMC i.e mcdonline.nic.in. He said that this demand was being made since long time by the representatives of the industrial area, which has been fulfilled by the North Delhi Municipal Corporation today.

GM, CLW inspects workshop

Chittaranjan: Satish Kumar Kashyap, General Manager, Chittaranjan Locomotive Works (CLW) along with other senior Officers visited CLW workshop on 16th February, 2021. He inspected various places, like - Stores Depot - GSD, Yard area etc. He also visited New Fabrication shop - Shell shops (New shop, Shop no.-12&26), Bogie shops (Shop no.-05, 18 & 25) in manufacturing group of shops. He was accompanied by Departmental Heads, Officers, and Staff & Supervisors of respective shops. During inspection, he interacted with staff and officers and reviewed various steps involved in production cycle of the locomotive. He emphasized on timely and proper disposal of scrap material to make working atmosphere of shop clean and eco-friendly. During inspection with departmental heads, he deliberated capacity augmented plan to further enhance production. He gave instructions to explore possibilities of improvement in stores management, adaptation of new & latest technique for inventory control.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on [@SCRRailwaysIndia](#)
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C. Railway can be seen on our website: [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](#)

Open e-Tender Notice No. DR/M/Works/SC/01-08/2021/OT Dt: 05-02-2021

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the following works up to 14.00 hours on 10-03-2021.

S.No.1. e-Tender No.: 01_W_SC_21_OT. **Name of the work:** VKB-PRLI Section: (1) Proposal for closure of manged LC No.39 at Km.82/11-12 between MTV-BIDR stations by constructing RCC box as RUB/Subway under Sr.DEN/West/SC section. (2) Proposal for closure of manged LC No.60 at Km.118/13-14 between HBU-BHLK stations by constructing RCC box as RUB/Subway under Sr.DEN/West/SC section. (3) Proposal for closure of manged LC No.75 at Km.148/13-14 between KCC-KMNR stations by constructing RCC box as RUB/Subway under Sr.DEN/West/SC section. (4) Proposal for closure of manged LC No.85 at Km.175/4-5 between UDGHERA station by constructing RCC box as RUB/Subway under Sr.DEN/West/SC section. **Approx.Tender Value in Rs.:** 6,77,96,981/-. **Completion period in Months :** 09. **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.2. e-Tender No.: 02_S_SC_21_OT. **Name of the work:** KZJ-BZA section: Proposed construction Road under bridge (RUB) in lieu of LC No.111 (M) UP, DN & 3rd line portion at KM 502/21-23 at CHINTAKANI and NAGALWANCHA stations as precast RCC Box of size 1x5.50x5.00m by box pushing method. **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 6,30,61,677/-. **Completion period in Months :** 09. **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.3. e-Tender No.: 03_S_SC_21_OT. **Name of the work:** MTMI-JNPD Section - Supplying, fabricating and erecting welded built-up steel height gauge for existing RUB's between JPTN-JNPD stations under ADEN/MDR subdivision **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 82,92,316/-. **Completion period in Months :** 06. **Maintenance period in Months:** 06

S.No.4. e-Tender No.: 04_S_SC_21_OT. **Name of the work:** SC Division: Provision of lift at WL station in Platform No.4(BZAN FDB). **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 23,67,965/-. **Completion period in Months :** 04. **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.5. e-Tender No.: 05_N_SC_21_OT. **Name of the work:** KZJ-BPQ section: Proposed construction Road under bridge (RUB) in lieu of LC No.65 (M) at KM 231/26-28 between BELLAMPALLI-RECHINI stations by pushing method. **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 5,74,30,274/-. **Completion period in Months :** 09. **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.6. e-Tender No.: 06_N_SC_21_OT. **Name of the work:** KZJ-BPQ section: Proposed construction Road under bridge (RUB) in lieu of LC No.56 (M) UP, DN & 3rd line portion at KM 260/46-261/2 between PEDDAMPET-MANCHIRYAL stations. **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 8,83,16,110/-. **Completion period in Months :** 09. **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.7. e-Tender No.: 07_N_SC_21_OT. **Name of the work:** KZJ-BPQ section- Proposed construction of Road under bridge (RUB) in lieu of LC No. 35(M) at Km. 301/22-24 between Kolnur - Peddapalli stations. **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 5,74,32,700/-. **Completion period in Months :** 09. **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

S.No.8. e-Tender No.: 08_N_SC_21_OT. **Name of the work:** KZJ-BPQ section- Proposed construction of Road under bridge (RUB) in lieu of LC No. 33(M) at Km. 307/14-16 between Potkapalli - Kolnur stations. **Approx. Tender Value in Rs.:** 5,74,32,700/-. **Completion period in Months :** 09. **Maintenance period in Months:** 36

1.Tenderers should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers may be considered. 2.All the prospective tenderers are requested to remit Cost of EMD (if applicable) through online payments only. 3.The Railway reserves the right to cancel the tender without assigning any reason thereto. 4.All the prospective tenderers are advised to get GSTIN identification Nos. and submit along with their offer. **Sr. Subdivisional Engineer/Co-ord/A0168 Secunderabad.**

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at [https://www.ireps.gov.in](#) or [www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in](#)

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one male namely Kirpal Paswan, S/o Jhabti Paswan, R/o H.No. 167, Village Pitampura, Delhi, Age: 45 years, Height: 5'3", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Round, wearing Cream Sweater, Blue Pant and Shoes in feet, has been missing/kidnapped from area of Rani Bagh, Delhi, since 25.12.2020. In this regard a DD No. 67-A, dated 27.12.2020 has been registered at P.S. Rani Bagh, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him please inform undersigned.

Website : [http://cbl.nic.in](#)
E-mail : [cic@cbl.gov.in](#)
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641

SHO P.S. Rani Bagh, Delhi DP/617/OD/2021 Ph. No.: 011-27020740, 27020742

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that an unidentified dead body of male, Age: 35/40 years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5'4", Face: Damage, was wearing Black Sweater and White Shirt, was found dead at KM Pole No. 1521/9, Main Upline, TKD Railway Station at 9:15 AM. In this regard a DD No. 5A, dated 13.02.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi. Any person having any information or clue about the deceased may kindly inform to the undersigned on the following address or telephone nos.

SHO P.S. Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway Station, Delhi DP/60/Rly/2021 Ph.: 011-24358593, 24356743

Form No. URC-2
Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI (Pursuant to section 374(b) of the companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014)

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application has been made to the Registrar of Companies at Delhi that **CELLGEN BIOPHARMA LLP** a LLP, may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company limited by shares. 2. The principal objects of the company are as follows: To take over the running business of the LLP "Cellgen Biopharma LLP" and to carry on the business of Sales, Marketing, Export & Import of Neutraceuticals, Pharmaceuticals, Biological and Ayurvedic medicines, Diagnostic Services and Medical Tourism. 3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at SF-1 A & B, RISHABH IPEX MALL, IP EXTENSION, DELHI-110092. 4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at SF-1 A & B, RISHABH IPEX MALL, IP EXTENSION, DELHI-110092, within twenty one days from the date of publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office. Dated this 13th day of February 2021. Name(s) of Applicant 1. Akhil Gupta 2. Raghvendra Singh Kushwah

WINDOW ADVERTISEMENT FOR WALK-INTERVIEW IN CRPF FOR ENGAGEMENT OF CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS

Suitable and willing Male & Female candidates may attend Walk-in-interview for engagement as Clinical Psychologist for VIP Security duties on contractual basis for a period of one year.

Venue : Composite Hospital, CRPF, Jharoda Kalan, New Delhi

Sl. No.	Date and time of interview	Post	Vacancy	Remuneration	Age	Medical Standard	Qualifications
01	23/02/21 at 0900 hrs	Clinical Psychologist	01	Rs.50,000/-	Below 65 years.	Should be Medically fit to perform duties of Clinical Psychologist.	1) MA/M. Phil in Clinical Psychology. 2) Professional experience for 5 years in a similar capacity for :- a) Constructing/conducting psychological tests. b) Administering the tests. c) Scoring and interpreting the test results. d) Drawing a report based on the result. e) Adapting and translating psychological test. f) The incumbent must have an understanding of the personality variables required in individuals who handle high pressure situations, particularly those related to defence/security. Further, they must be able to identify and administer psychological tests that measures these variable to assist in the short listing of personnel for VIP Security duties.

2. While appearing for Walk-in-interview, the candidates should bring documents in original & photocopies of all relevant documents (Degree, Age Proof & Experience Certificate etc.) application in plain paper superscripting the name of post applied for & five passport size recent photographs. Interview will be followed by Medical Examination.

Terms & conditions are as under :-

- Appointment is purely on contract basis and the initial period of appointment of contract will be for one year. No extension will be granted.
- On completion of tenure, the contract shall lapse automatically. However, the appointment can be terminated at any time (on either side) by giving one month's Notice or by paying one month's salary, without assigning any reason or failure to complete three months service to the satisfaction of the competent authority.
- The appointee shall not be entitled to any benefits like provident fund, gratuity, medical attendance, treatment, seniority, promotion etc. on any other benefits available to the Government Servant appointed to regular basis. The appointee will not be granted any claim or right to regular appointment to any post under CRPF.
- The working hours of the appointee as per the schedule of CRPF Hospitals/Establishment or as fixed by competent authority.
- No TA/DA and boarding / lodging will be provided during walk-in-interview.
- No TA/DA will be paid during the period of engagement in CRPF on contractual basis/hiring basis.
- No transportation will be provided during the period of engagement in CRPF.
- He/She will be authorized for 2 & 1/2 days E/L per month as per CCS Leave Rules 1972 for contractual Employee. After exhausting admissible leave, if leave available with permission of competent authority, it would be treated as unpaid leave. If absent without sanctioned leave it will be treated as unpaid leave, and indiscipline on the part of individual.
- He/she will not claim to regular absorption either during the period of contract or after completion of the period.

4. Interested candidates may also refer to our website [www.crpff.gov.in](#) for full details.

davp 19140/11/0013/2021

CSB Bank
Branch located at Greater Kailash II-New Delhi

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

CSB Bank Limited, Greater Kailash II branch had granted gold loan against pledge of gold ornaments to the below mentioned borrowers. Notice has been issued to him/them demanding repayment of the amount with interest and charges thereon. Since they have failed to repay the balance outstanding in the respective accounts, we are constrained to recover the amount by sale of gold ornaments in public auction and if the auction does not fetch required amount, bank will proceed with the sale by private treaties/contract. Bank reserves its right to change/extend the date and venue of auction without assigning any reason.

Sl. No.	Name of borrower	Gross Weight of Pledge items (in grams)	Overdue Gold Loan Account no.	Amount	Balance as on 14-02-2021
1	Mr. Jai Prakash	7.1	0296-04105142-00001	Rs. 14800/-	Rs. 17583/-
2	Mrs. Vanita Tutuja	399.1	0296-07279148-00001	Rs. 1459000/-	Rs. 1506487/-

The auction will be conducted at the premises of CSB Bank Limited, Greater Kailash II Branch premises situated at M-17, Main Market, GK II, New Delhi-110048 on 23-02-2021. Interested parties may contact the Branch Manager in the above address. Participants should attend the auction along with copy of Pan Card, passport size photo, valid identity proof and address proof on the date of auction.

Place: Delhi
Date : 15-02-2021

BRANCH MANAGER

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE
Re-Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement System)

Name of work with its location: Removal of existing through of Br. No. 242 DN (1x24.12m) span at Km. 197/23-25 and providing top bracing & new galvanized steel channel sleepers on SRE-UMB section in the jurisdiction of AXEN/BLJUMB

Approximate cost of work: ₹22,35,503.80

Completion period of the work: (04) Four Months

Cost of Tender form: ₹3,000.00
Note: Cost of Tender Form should be in the form of net banking of payment gateway only. FDR will not be accepted as cost of tender invited on IREPS as per Railway Boards letter no. 2015/CE-1/CT/51 dated 31.08.2016

Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender: Upto 14:00 hrs. on 10.03.2021 Opening of tender after 14:00 hrs. on same day.

Website particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded: Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](#)

No. : Tender Notice No. 32-W-BR-242-UMB Date: 15.02.2021 340/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE



FOR A NEET SCORE

In such a stressful environment, it is important for aspirants to know how effectively they can prepare for their exam. VIVEK GAUR shares tips & strategies that can help aspirants ace the exam

Even after knowing the whole syllabus, there are students who don't know what to study for NEET or if they somehow manage to divide the concepts according to their preferences they don't know how to wrap their head around it, so to bring clarity to this, here we explain the major points.

Biology NCERT: Go through the information multiple times until you have every important points — diagrams, labeling, description of the diagrams, chapter summary etc. at your fingertips.

For Chemistry, let's divide it in three sections: Physical, Inorganic and Organic. For Physical chemistry Practise book, other than the NCERT, with enough MCQs for each chapter to clear your concepts.

For Inorganic chemistry, focus on studying the theory than solving questions. NCERT is vital for inorganic, all the reactions, reagents, special properties of compounds should be crystal clear. Make notes if you want to.

Organic chemistry calls for a very systematic approach. Each pre-

vious chapter forms a base for the next topics. The most typical organic questions are those with a series of reactions using one starting reactant and asking about the final product, tests how systemised and directional your thinking is. So be it nomenclature or isomerism, alcohol or phenols; make sure you devote proper time to each of these topics. Don't forget to remember all the named reactions that are given in the NCERT.

Lastly For physics, practice is the only thing that can make you perfect in it. Build up concepts in order to tackle higher level questions. Chapters like Mechanical Properties, EM waves etc. are difficult to retain. So keep studying these again and again, till you memorise them properly.

Best way to prepare notes: Prepare notes while studying. Notes should always be exam oriented, make sure you prepare notes only when the concept is clear in your head. So, here are few tips to prepare notes subject wise:

Physics: Every important formula should be noted followed by the key

Quit social media, utilise your time as much as you can, don't create any new relationship and friendship goals for some time. Choose your company wisely. Don't interact with distracted people who aren't serious for their aim. They'll eventually end up distracting you as well

derivation points. Keep it brief, for example: 1one-two pages are enough for a chapter. The more concise notes are, the easier it is to keep on finger-

tips.
Chemistry: Organic chemistry should be a priority. NCERT books do the job fairly in Physical chemistry and inorganic chemistry so do refer to them.

Biology: Flow charts to remember the important concepts of Botany and Zoology can be Helpful here.
Online Classes: During Covid-19, online classes are a key source to study, therefore, chooses an online course which is short yet effective; less time consuming and that is based on concise learning.

Focus on NCERT & previous year question paper: Read NCERT properly. Don't read 10 books at a time rather read NCERT 10 times. Solve previous year question papers to understand the Structure of the question paper. Finish your preparation and keep enough time for revision.

Preparation for mock tests: Join a test series and attempt the test. But this isn't quite enough. Test analysis is more important. Do that carefully. It is required for everyone,

whether you're a coaching /online/DLP student or depend on self-study.

On a lighter note, there are some common instructions as well for every type of NEET Aspirants (Class XI, Class XII, dropper or repeater) for example: Quit social media, utilise your time as much as you can, don't create any new relationship and friendship goals for some time. Choose your company wisely. Don't interact with distracted people who aren't serious for their aim. They'll eventually end up distracting you as well. Don't pass your work on tomorrow because later it will be a burden on you which will be harder for you to complete. And you'll have to drop some topics and you can't afford that. So get up and be focused from this very second.

Let's be focused and utilise every second of time remaining for the NEET Preparation. Instead of getting anxious one should stay motivated and relaxed.

The writer is Ceo and Co-Founder of PrepOnline

QUOTE OF THE DAY

A man who has never gone to school may steal a freight car; but if he has a university education, he may steal the whole railroad.

— Theodore Roosevelt

'Personalised education is key'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A complete education system is need of the hour, right from school to higher education level, said Deputy CM of Govt of Delhi here on February 16, 2021. He was speaking as a chief guest of the valedictory session of the two-day virtual North Zone Vice Chancellors' Meet 2020 21 organised by Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and hosted by IP University.

He emphasised on enhancing the quality of education so that all graduates are employable and capable to serve the nation. He discussed on creating research-oriented universities that allow knowledge transfer to avoid brain drain at all levels. He also suggested extension of higher education institutes' system to cater to overall and diverse learning needs.

The Vice Chancellor of IP University Prof Mahesh Verma in his welcome address said that the virtual dimension has huge role to play in the implementation of National Education Policy (NEP). He underlined the need to combine research, training and application for a global future. He highlighted that each student is unique and hence education for future should be personalised instead of 'one shoe fits all' approach of the past.

BBA-Hospitality course

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The SVKM's NMIMS School of Hospitality Management (SoHM) invites applications for its BBA-Hospitality Operations & Management program in Navi Mumbai. The three-year programme is one of the most sought after program for hospitality industry aspirants. With a view to developing hands-on experience with skill enhancement, the pedagogy combines lectures, Capstone projects with internship and industry visits.

Often known as the sunrise sector, India's hospitality industry creates millions of jobs each year. The tourism and hospitality industry has been one of the biggest contributors to India's GDP. With such robust growth, the need for skilled professionals in the industry is bound to rise and this is where SoHM's BBA program steps in. With its futuristic curriculum, focus on experiential and multidimensional learning, and best-in-class placement opportunities, NMIMS School of Hospitality Management aims to nurture global hospitality professionals.

Speaking about the programme, Dr Ramesh Bhat, Vice-Chancellor, SVKM's NMIMS, said: "India's hospitality industry is robust and resilient and despite the challenges posed by a global pandemic, the sector has sprung back into action in the recent months. It will continue to need skilled and talented professionals who can lead the way out of the present crisis while adhering to its world-renowned reputation for exemplary service. At school, we train future-ready leaders to not only master the operational and service aspect of hospitality, but also gain the business acumen to deal with the rapid changes in the industry."

Eligibility: A candidate must have passed Class XII or equivalent examination and must have obtained a minimum of 50% aggregate marks. Candidates passing Diploma Engineering with Minimum 50 per cent aggregate marks are also eligible to apply.

India's belief in the science of planetary movements and that of other celestial bodies is deeply rooted. From the time of our birth to every important milestone in our lives, we largely depend on the study of the movements and relative positions of our stars. Even as a means of coping with life's challenges that involve our family, relationships, wealth, and health; we go to astrologers.

India's spiritual and religious market is at \$40 billion, out of which astrology is over \$10 billion, practiced by nearly 2 million astrologers. This booming industry has attracted numerous entrepreneurs to tap in this segment. After all, the youth has not completely dismissed the ancient science of astrology and palmistry.

Numerous innovation-based astrology startups have made their own specialty in the online world, by making predictions, which produce customised forecasts in various vernacular dialects, in this manner giving potential clients an easy, innovative pool of services. Every year, around 100,000 new astrologers enter the market. While the endlessness of such services ranges from reading history and anticipating future, Numerology, Palmistry, Gemology, Vaastushastra, Tarot Reading, and so on, bringing them together on a single platform is a great entrepreneurial idea.

Over the most recent years, numerous new companies on astrology have come up from within India. The youth is leaving its well-settled corporate career to take up professions in astrology. Online aggregators associate clients with astrologers, numerologists, Vaastu

Career full of predictions

The youth is leaving its well-settled corporate career to take up professions in astrology. PUNEET GUPTA talks about what the future holds for astrology



specialists, tarot card readers, and Vedic healers and make trade. Astrology in India was always there and will always be there until forever. It will keep on developing further as we have just entered the Aquarian age. This implies that now onwards, study of science and Astrology will work in parallel and develop a wide margin supplementing each other in a more genial climate.

Online consultations is likewise a developing region in the Astrology industry, where trained professionals and specialists give answers to

their customers either by email, chatbot or live video sessions. This offers customers a chance to avail services from any part of the world, as they can get answers for their issues from the solaces of their home. To help ease the trade, astrology software has emerged decreasing the time taken to set up the forecasts and kill any chance of miscalculation, also increasing the potential of the market. This has opened new opportunities for free online consultations, which have begun to gain importance.

Individuals, particularly the youth, are understanding that astrology can prove to be useful and can truly help them shape their future in a coordinated and educated way.

Online astrology saves a great deal of time for clients as they don't need to visit the astrologer or take an appointment for the consultation. The expense of online session varies between Rs 12 to Rs 400 for every startup, which Indians are willing to spend as they get solace of their homes and outright security. Additionally, the services are accessible seven days every week, which implies that they can look for counseling whenever it might suit them.

While we are a cutting-edge country with the best innovative headways, the confidence in astrology and astrologers stays by and large. Relationships in our nation take shape based on the birth charts, and a great many people search for promising date and time to perform significant tasks after consulting astrologers. The science of astrology in India has a great potential to empower the startup ecosystem, given this unorganised space become more authentic and trustworthy with genuine astrologers.

The writer is Founder and CEO, AstroTalk.com

Engage to educate

Studies in the US proved that students with parents involved in their school have fewer behavioural problems and better academic performance, says PARUL UPPAL

Children are like an empty canvas painted into a masterpiece with colours of knowledge and learning, and the co-creators of this masterpiece are their parents and teachers.

Parents are the child's first role model. In their initial years, they copy their parents to an extent where they behave, enact and react just like their parents. Their primary reaction to any situation (fight/flight) is formed in the formative years by acquiring the parent's and the educator's traits.

Teachers are the first source of knowledge for most children. A student forms his notion about a subject based on its teacher's way of imparting knowledge. If the teacher is supportive and inspirational, they will love the subject even though he might have a lower aptitude for the subject and vice versa.

Parent's engagement: Parent engagement is when they share responsibilities with teachers to learn and meet educational goals. It enhances the child's grade and results in good behaviour.

Studies in the US proved that students with parents involved in their school have fewer behavioural problems and better academic performance, attend school regularly and are more likely to graduate than



those whose parents are not engaged.

Parent engagement is different from parents' involvement. In this, the teacher sets the goal, and parents act as advisors rather than participants.

Teacher's role: Teachers play a vital role in a student's life inside and outside the classroom. They are one of the first inspirations of a child and drives them towards the future they wish to see. They impart knowledge in academics or extracurricular activities and are responsible for shaping their personality by teaching them the values and ethics in life.

Today, teachers fill in the gap between information and real education with viable real-life examples

and experiments. Teachers are the most prominent assets of a student's educational journey.

Commingled platform: Parents and teachers' involvement in a student's life is not a new concept, but a platform that enables both the parties to actively play a vital role is groundbreaking.

It will help parents keep a check on their ward's academic growth, interact with other parents for parenting tips, interact with the teacher, and control their child's learning quality. The teachers will be able to sell the best content at a regulated price as the parents understand the importance of quality learning and will be able to interact with students and parents personally. They will partner with global teachers to learn about students' different teaching styles and mindsets.

Finally, the students will harvest the fruit of this commingled journey as they will interact with their teachers without any interruptions, interact with their peers, develop their interests, and participate in co-curricular activities in a much larger setting.

Giving this trio a platform will be like a wheel of fortune, revolutionising our entire education system 360 degrees.

The writer is Co-Founder, Inklick

New era in event management

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

During the most-distressed COVID pandemic times of the decade. Team.i has redesigned its all courses in the shortest time to support advanced learning systems of Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality.

It brings a new golden era in the event management domain. The leading institute has provided event management education to over 3000 students and nurtured even many more successful event managers over the years through team.i Courses, team.i Bootcamps, team.i Event Edu Series, and numerous other

For years, the perfect learning curriculum for studying 'Event Management and

Media' was missing in the higher education segment. Team.i with its prudence and practical experience, collaborated with the legendary DNA Networks to provide comprehensive and practical Event Management Education to students and industry trainees.

In the words of the golden orator, Arvind Jyot Sabhaney, Chairman and CEO of Team.i: "My vision is to put India at the epitome in the field of event management and media as well. Through, team.i, along with industry experts as trainers, advanced technological interventions and a world-class education system; we have been nurturing and developing highly-talented, industry-specific personnel for the past decade, for the event management industry."

6th edition of Maker Mela organised

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The sixth edition of Maker Mela, Asia's Biggest Maker Gathering and a premier event for grassroots innovators around the world, successfully concluded on January 24, 2021.

The two-day virtual event registered participation of more than 100 innovative minds from across the globe. The event is an initiative of Somaia Trust and SomaiaVidyavihar, organised by Research

Innovation Incubation Design Laboratory, a not-for-profit organisation under Somaia Trust, supported by the National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship

Development Board (NSTEDB), Department of Science & Technology, Government of India; Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, Maharashtra State Innovation Society,

Government of Maharashtra to accelerate the maker movement in India and create a community of innovators.

This year, Maker Mela initiated a virtual platform for makers to exhibit their innovations. Projects of more than 100 Makers from over 15 countries were showcased on the Maker Mela platform. Makers from all age groups, 10 years being the youngest to the oldest being 61 years, and various categories like Art &

Craft, Technology, Biotech, Environment, Gaming and many more showcased their innovative ideas and iconic products.

The videos of these makers received more than 75,000 views in less than 30 hours by visitors from 63 countries including India, Japan, USA, South Korea and Nepal. Maker Mela received patronage from prestigious initiatives like UNESCO, Startup India, Skill India and NYCS.

Report on new jobs & skills

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

New trends in various segments of creative industries, being further accelerated by COVID-19 crisis, are creating fresh job roles and pushing for upskilling of the creative workforce.

A 2021 report titled Future of jobs in design, fashion and contemporary media by KPMG in India, Pearl Academy, FICCI and FDCI analyses 160 job profiles and shares recommendations to help higher education institutions in developing the right talent for India Inc.

Some key findings of the report includes clear emergence of technology-based jobs, along with jobs in areas of customer experience and sustainability. On the upskilling front, many mainstream jobs will see a difference in the way they are executed owing to impact of technology, data availability and changing consumer preference. Upskilling required across business skills, soft skills, specialised industry skills and tech baseline.



PLAYING IT SAFE

Fire engineering is among top-notch professions making it a lucrative option for those who have good communication skills, are team players and have the ability to make quick decisions and solve problems, says ZS LAKRA

Fire engineering is one of the toughest and demanding fields which deal with the prevention of fire. It is a dangerous profession which requires a strong sense of commitment to public services. It deals with prevention and protection of all living beings and buildings from the fire outbreak.

Fire engineering can be classified into Fire Prevention Engineering, Fire Safety Engineering, Fire Protection Engineering and Fire Control Engineering involving the technological knowledge to prevent deaths loss of property in case of a fire. When fire expands, it is dangerous and can cause a disaster, which is when the services of the such professionals are required.

The course offers practical training in firefighting techniques handling of fire equipment and appliances and life-rescue techniques. The students are also taught fire engineering science, safety engineering and management and lessons in Safety Act

Fire engineering can be classified into Fire Prevention Engineering, Fire Safety Engineering, Fire Protection Engineering and Fire Control Engineering.

SCOPE
A fire engineer has to adapt to changes as quickly as possible. Fire engineering also deals with reducing the causality which hap-

pens on a day to day basis by providing safety measure and increasing the parameters of the standard of living. It helps one understands the phenomena of fire and the effect of it. Drive fire trucks and other emergency vehicles. Put out fires using water hoses, fire extinguishers, and water pumps. Find and rescue victims in burning buildings or in other emergency situations.

decisions and solving problems, physical agility and mental skills to tackle problems under any circumstance.

COURSE AND ELIGIBILITY

There are several certificate, Diploma and degree courses which one can pursue after 10-plus 2 with Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry or its equivalent exam. Certificate programmes are also offered to Class 10 (with Science and Mathematics) pass out students. The course offers practical training in firefighting techniques handling of fire equipment and appliances, life-rescue techniques and more. The students are also taught fire engineering science, safety engineering and management. The curriculum also includes lessons on nuances of Safety Act and law.

Apart from the educational qualification, the candidate should possess specified physical qualification — should be physically fit and free from organic disease to undergo practical training. Minimum acceptable physical standards for the fire engineering course are Height: Minimum 165 cm, Weight: 50 kg. Chest measurement: 81 cm, with five-centimeter

expansion, Vision: 6/6, preferably without any aid.

PROSPECTS

Engineers of this field can go in any sector either government or private according to their interest and choices. They can also get employed in other industries such as chemical or inflammable products manufacturing firms like petroleum refineries, petrochemicals, textiles and fertilisers. They can work with business corporations, educational institutions, consultancies and other government organisations around the world. Fire Safety department in MNCs. In these sectors candidate may be posted as Safety Inspector, Safety Engineers, Safety Officer, Safety Supervisor, Safety Auditor, Fire Men/Fire Fighter, Fire Supervisor and Fire Engineer.

REMNORATION

An average salary of a fire engineer is ₹3 to ₹3.5 lakh per year. This is the starting salary and can increase based on the performance, abilities and experience of the person.

The writer is Director, Delhi College of Fire Safety Engineering

Design a better future for yourself

The interior design industry is leading the gateway for change by embracing the salient issues of the day, says VIPUL SOLANKI

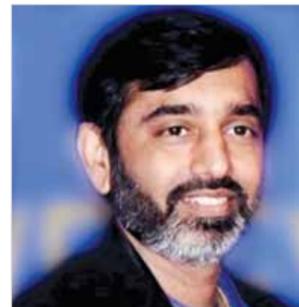
Pandemic has mutated everything for the global populace. Its impact has compelled people in every industry to arch and evolve in real-time. The very ways in which we live, work, learn, and even design have altered dramatically during the days of the crisis. In many ways, the fluctuations are here to stay.

Futuristic trends heralding a paradigm shift in the domain of design are:

Industry's macro-vision and co-creation skills: The industry's present scene necessitates budding students and fresher's to emphasize on how to do it, rather than what to do. Comprehending this process and being proficient of networking with the right people and experts will help offer a sea of exposure to students. This set of skills will reinforce the co-creative capability required for a designer. To enable designers to build sturdy structures alongside forging strong relationships, the industry must focus on specialisation and fragmentation of knowledge. By adapting to the formation of collectives and the process of collaboration, the sector of interior design education can help students in sharing spaces, facilities and ideas all under one roof.

VR as a social experience: A multitude of web platforms facilitates users with a dual experience, wherein they can get access to three-dimensional environments from their desktops as well as with their VR goggles. In case of a design studio, this technological application presents an exciting opportunity enabling students to network in the spaces they have planned in real-time.

Hybrid learning reinventing design education: Blended learning combines the best of face-to-face and online experiences to produce improved learning outcomes. Its potential for change is huge in transforming the foundation of architectural education, be it in various design disciplines like industrial and interior design, architecture or planning. Following a hybrid approach to learning will facilitate in creating a learner centred experience



Vipul Solanki
Director, NAFDI School of Interior Design

that is tailored, relevant, and engaging. Through this way educational skills can be augmented by lending student centred approaches to meet the diverse pedagogical requirements of learners.

3D scanning lending a flip to the traditional classroom: This technology has become accessible over the past few years. Scans are an instant way to intercede between physical and simulated environments, enabling students to scan architectural and design models and environments. The choice of uploading these models to the web lends another level of interactivity and share ability.

Chart career creatively: The interior design courses offer a 360-degree shift in public and private design spaces enabling graduates to choose from a plethora of opportunities in the professional market. These consist of roles like interior architect, design educator, independent researcher, product designer, sustainable interiors consultant and landscape designer to name a few. Design entrepreneurs are required to apply rigorous R&D processes that encompass detailed market and user research.

Working in amalgamation with the other edifices, the world, of interior design education can truly be a game-changer in the edification domain.

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LIMITED

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMovable ASSET OF M/S BUSINESS INDIA PUBLICATIONS LIMITED . UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE SECURITISATION AND RECONSTRUCTION OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTEREST ACT, 2002 ("SARFAESI ACT") READ WITH PROVISIO TO RULE 8 (6) OF THE SECURITY INTEREST (ENFORCEMENT) RULES, 2002.

Whereas, Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited ("KMBL") had sanctioned certain credit facilities to M/s Business India Publications Limited (hereinafter referred to as "Borrower").

Whereas, the Authorised Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited ("KMBL") had issued notice under the provisions of Section 13(2) of the SARFAESI Act and called upon the Borrower and the guarantors viz. M/s Donna Builders Private Limited, M/s Wisdom Buildcon Private Limited, M/s Virtue Exim Private Limited and Sh. Ashok H Advanito pay the amounts mentioned therein, within 60 days of receipt of the said notice. The said demand was not complied with. Pursuant to the failure to pay the amount demanded and subsequent to consent of other lenders under Section 13 (9) of the SARFAESI Act, the Authorised Officer took physical possession of the properties as detailed herein below, after complying with the provisions of the SARFAESI Act and Rules enacted therein. In exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act read with the Rules therein, the undersigned has decided to sell the said property by E-Auction. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and to the Borrower and the guarantors, in particular, that the properties as mentioned herein below shall be sold on "AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS", by way of E Auction to be conducted on March 5, 2021, for recovery of a sum of Rs. 3,86,25,320.26 due as on 20.05.2014, together with further interest at rate of rate of 24% p.a. from 21-05-2014 till realization, together with all incidental costs, charges and expenses.

Auction/bidding shall only be through "online electronic mode" through the website/portal of M/s. E-procurement Technologies Limited (Auction Tiger) at <https://kotakbank.auctiontiger.net>. The EMD Amount is payable by way of NEFT/RTGS/Cheque/DD in the E-Auction Account of KMBL at Mumbai viz. "Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. A/c E-Auction", Account No.8411307138 with Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited, Malad (East), Mumbai, Branch with IFSC Code No: KKBK0006646. Any bid submitted without depositing the EMD amount shall stand automatically rejected. Duly filled and signed copy of Terms and Conditions dated 17.02.2021, PAN/Aadhaar card and Address and Id Proof shall be uploaded with the online offer and EMD remittance details on the website/portal. <https://kotakbank.auctiontiger.net>

Lot No.	Particulars of Property	Reserve Price	EMD	Encumbrances
I	Commercial property being part Basement, entire Ground Floor, First Floor and Second Floor constructed on the land bearing on M.C.D. Plot No.268, Kharsa No.-429 situated within Lal Dora Abadi of Village Masjid Moth, New Delhi together with the buildings and erections standing thereon with all rights, easements and appurtenances thereto	610	61	Not Known
II	Commercial property being entire Basement and Ground Floor, part of First Floor, Third floor, fourth floor and entire fifth floor constructed on the land bearing on M.C.D. Plot No.66, Kharsa No.-429 situated within Lal Dora Abadi of Village Masjid Moth, New Delhi together with the buildings and erections standing thereon with all rights, easements and appurtenances thereto	180	18	Not Known
III	Lot Nos. I-II as consolidated	790	79	Not Known

Inspection at site : On any working day (Monday -Friday) between 11.00 am to 5.00 pm with prior request to the Authorised Officer, Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd., D-10, D-Block, Vasant Vihar, Delhi-110057 Tel. no. 011-46093674/46093678/9873570366 by the prospective bidders up to March 4, 2021.

Last date for deposit of EMD and uploading Bid documents : March 4, 2021 upto 4p.m. at <https://kotakbank.auctiontiger.net>

Date and time of E-Auction : March 5, 2021 between 11 am to 12:00 p.m.

The end time of auction will be extended by 5 minutes each time a bid is made within last 5 minutes of E-Auction.

Bid increment amount : Rs. 1,00,000/- (Rupees One Lakh Only) or in multiples thereof for individual lots and Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Only) for consolidated lot.

To the best of knowledge and information of KMBL, there are no other encumbrances. Statutory dues like Sales Tax, Excise, property taxes, Society dues, maintenance, electricity, water dues etc. should be ascertained and paid by the successful bidders/ prospective purchaser(s). The particulars in respect of the secured assets specified hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the undersigned, who, however shall not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The bidders/ prospective purchaser(s) are, therefore, requested in their own interests, to satisfy himself / herself with regard to the above and the other relevant details pertaining to the abovementioned property / properties, before submitting the bids.

The 25% of final purchase price minus EMD Amount shall be deposited by the successful bidder, on the next working day by way of RTGS/NEFT/Cheque/DD in the E-Auction account of KMBL as detailed above. The balance 75% of final purchase price shall be deposited by way of NEFT/RTGS/Cheque/DD within 15 days from the date of sale in the same E-Auction account as above. The refund of EMD to the unsuccessful bidders shall be made only in the account number mentioned by such bidder in the Bid/tender form within 3 working days.

The Terms and Conditions of sale are available on the website/portal <https://kotakbank.auctiontiger.net> or <https://www.kotak.com/en/bank-auctions.html>

For any details with respect to any help, procedure and online training in respect of the auction process please contact M/s e-Procurement Technologies Limited - Auction Tiger B-704, Wall Street - II, Opp. Orient Club, Nri, Gujarat College, Ellis Bridge, Ahmedabad - 380006 Gujarat (India) on Telephone No. 79-68136837/880 842, Hardik Goswami-9978434773 & 9374519754 and on E-mail ID: hardik@auctiontiger.net, support@auctiontiger.net;

For any other details, regarding the property please contact Mr. Debojyoti Sengupta/ Mr Vikas Bhardwaj on 9873174595/9873570366

Important Terms & conditions:

- For detailed Terms and conditions of auction sale, the bidders are advised to go through the portal <https://kotakbank.auctiontiger.net> or <https://www.kotak.com/en/bank-auctions.html> and the said terms and conditions shall be binding on the bidders who participate in the bidding process. Also note that bid has to be filled online on the portal <https://eauction.npasource.com>. Intended bidders are also advised to visit the web site <https://eauction.npasource.com> for submitting their bids through online mode for participating in the E-auction.
- Prospective bidders may avail online training from E-Procurement Technologies (Auction Tiger) on above mentioned contact numbers.
- The bid price to be submitted shall be equal to and above the Reserve Price and during the bidding process, bidders shall improve their further offers in multiples of Rs 1 lakhs for individual lots and Rs. 10 lakhs for consolidated lot.
- On receipt of the entire sale consideration within the stipulated period as mentioned above, the Authorised Officer shall issue the Sale Certificate and the sale shall be complete thereafter and the Secured Creditors shall not entertain any claims.
- The Authorised Officer has the absolute right and discretion to accept or reject any bid or adjourn/cancel the sale/ modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice and assigning any reason.
- All charges / dues including Registration Charges, Stamp Duty and Taxes etc. shall have to be borne by the Purchaser.
- The Authorised Officer has the absolute right and discretion to accept or to reject any bid or adjourn/cancel the sale/modify any terms and conditions of the sale without any prior notice and assigning any reason.

This is also a notice to the Borrower/guarantors that the auction shall proceed if the dues are not paid in full before the date of E-Auction. It may please be noted that in case of any discrepancy/inconsistency between auction notices published in English and in Hindi then the contents of the notice published in English shall prevail.

Place : Delhi
Date : February 17, 2021
For Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited
Authorised Officer

SEARCH FOR MISSING WOMAN

General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Ruchi Pandey W/o Jitender Pandey R/o H.No. E-1/31, Sharma Colony, Budh Vihar, Phase-2, Delhi Age : 24 years, Height : 5'2", Complexion : Fair, Face : Oval, Build: Thin, wearing red colour suit and red colour pajami, has been missing since 08.02.2021 alongwith her son namely Aryush: Age : 4 years. In this regard DD No. 78-A, dated 08.02.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi.

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

E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
Ph. : : 011-27052771, 27052772
SHO : P.S. Budh Vihar, Delhi
Ph. : : 011-27052771, 27052772
Tel.: 24368638/24368641

PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON

Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused (1) Bharat @ Kaku S/o Devender R/o WZ-6/1, Top Floor, Krishna Puri, Tilak Nagar, Delhi (2) Sagor R/o WZ-6/1, Top Floor, Krishna Puri, Tilak Nagar, Delhi have committed (or are suspected to have committed) the offence in case FIR No. 7/21 U/s 328/354C/354D/376D/506/120B IPC at P.S. Vikaspuri, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon issued that the said accused Bharat @ Kaku and Sagor could not be found and whereas it has been shown to my satisfaction that the said accused Bharat @ Kaku and Sagor have absconded (or are concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant).

Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused Bharat @ Kaku and Sagor are required to appear before this court to answer the said complaint on or before 30.03.2021.

By Order
Ms. Deepak Vats
Metropolitan Magistrate-05
Room No. 9, Ground Floor,
Dwarka Courts, New Delhi.

DP/342/WD/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is here by informed that this woman (depicted in the photo) namely: Babli W/o Balkishan R/o H. No. X/58, Camp No. 1, Nangloi, Delhi, has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS Nangloi since 28.12.2020. In this regard DD No. 94-A dated 30.12.2020 has been registered a PS. Nangloi, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the woman but no clue has come to light so far.

Her physical description is as under:-
Sex: Female, **Age:** 51 years, **Height:** 5 ft., **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Id Mark:** Mentally Weak, **Wearing:** Peach Colour Suit-Salwar and Gray & Sky Blue Shoes in feet.
Any person is having information or clue about this missing/ kidnapped woman may kindly inform to the following:-

SHO : P.S. Nangloi, Delhi
Ph. No.: 011-25947225, 25949470
E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in
Tel. No.: 011-24368638/24368641
Fax No.: 011-24368639
DP/621/OD/2021

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform all concerned that my father Sh. Madan Lal Khattar S/o Sh. Thakur Das, R/o D-1/61, Block-D-1, New Kondli, Dullupura, East Delhi-110096, was the owner of 50% Share in Commercial Plot No.18, Block-X1, Sector-12, NOIDA, had executed a WILL in my favour which is registered in the office of Sub-Registrar-I, NOIDA, in Book No.III, Volume No.842, on pages 283 to 278, as Document No.496 Dated 05.03.2019.

And whereas my father Sh. Madan Lal Khattar died on 10.07.2020 and after the death of my father I, Mahender Kumar Khattar S/o Late Madan Lal Khattar, R/o S-2, Sector-12, NOIDA want to get mutation of his share in the said property in my favour. If anyone has any objection, he/she will submit his/her objection in the Commercial Deptt. of Noida Authority within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

Mahender Kumar Khattar

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE

Re-invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

Sl. No.	Name of work with its location	Approx. Cost of work	Completion period of the work	Cost of Tender form	Date & Time for submission of tender & opening of tender	Website particulars where complete details of Tender can be seen & downloaded.
1.	Fabrication, Supplying, providing & fixing of steel stool for Br. No. 60-A & 100 over Ambala Division	Rs. 1436063.54	(04) Four Months	Rs. 2000/-	Upto 14.00 hrs. on 10.03.2021 Opening of Tender after 14.00 hrs. on same day.	Above tender available on IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Notice No: 32-W-BR-100-60A-UMB Date : 15.02.2021. 338/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Wanted (Proclaimed Offenders)



(Hemant Kumar) (Veenu Yadav) (Vineeta Yadav) (Madhu Yadav)

General Public is hereby informed that the persons shown in above given photographs namely Hemant Kumar Yadav aged about 42 years, Veenu Yadav aged about 40 years, Vineeta Yadav aged about 40 years and Madhu Yadav are wanted in case FIR No. 645/2009 U/S 406, 498-A, 506 IPC, registered in Police Station, Sector-34, Chandigarh. They have been declared proclaimed offenders by the Hon'ble Court of Ms. Anupmish Modi, JMJC, UT, Chandigarh. Efforts are being made to arrest them but they are evading from arrest knowingly. Any information/clue about the above persons may be given on the below mentioned telephone numbers. The name of the informer will be kept secret:-

- 0172-2680919, 2680909 - PO & Summon Cell
- 98765-12343 - In-charge PO & Summon Cell
- 97795-80914 - (DSP/Central)
- 0172-2749194 or 112 - (Chandigarh Police Control Room)

ADVT NO. 23 Chandigarh Police

ENGAGEMENT OF Ex-ARMY PERSONNEL ON CONTRACT BASIS IN CISF-2021

Applications are invited from Indian citizens who have retired from Indian Army for engagement in Central Industrial Security Force in the rank of SI/Exe, ASI/Exe, Head Constable/GD and Constable/GD on contractual basis. The engagement would be contractual and appointee shall be engaged for a period of 1 year initially which may be renewed on year to year basis for 2 more years.

Name of post	Equivalent Rank in Army	No of posts	Fixed remuneration per month (in Rs)
SI/Exe.	Subedar	63	40,000/-
ASI/Exe	Naib Subedar	187	35,000/-
HC/GD	Havildar	424	30,000/-
Constable/GD	Sepoy	1326	25,000/-
	Total	2000	

How to apply:-

The application alongwith required documents must be submitted through e-mail to the concerned application receiving authority. The detailed instructions for filling online application are available in the notification.

For complete details of the notification, applicants should go through the advertisement/notification in the Employment News/Rozgar Samachar dated 13.02.2021 and at CISF recruitment website i.e. <https://cisfrectt.in>. Applicants should read and understand all the information carefully before applying for the post.

CLOSING DATE: Closing date of submission of application is 15.03.2021 including the candidates of North East Region.

Davp 19113/11/0003/2021

Poms dance to Patel Rap

Axar takes fifer in his maiden Test as Indian spinners demolish visitors by 317 runs to level series 1-1

PTI ■ CHENNAI

Axar Patel and Ravichandran Ashwin predictably completed the annihilation of clueless England batsmen, emphatically bringing India back in contention for the World Test Championship final with a series-levelling 317-run victory in the second Test here on Tuesday.

Debutant Patel made full use of favourable conditions to bag 5 for 60 in 21 overs while Ashwin finished with a match-haul of eight wickets, not to forget his classy hundred with the bat.

They demolished England for a paltry 164 on the fourth day in pursuit of an impossible target of 482, giving India their biggest win over the tourists in terms of runs.

India have now risen to second in the WTC standings and need to at least win one more and draw another in the four-match series to make the cut for the final in June.

After a crushing 227-run defeat in the first Test, Virat Kohli couldn't have imagined a better comeback going into the crucial Day/Night Test in Ahmedabad in just over a week's time.

While critics, mostly from the English side, had panned the pitch but two hundreds and three fifties by the home team batsmen showed that it was all about understanding of conditions and brilliant application from the likes of Rohit Sharma, Ashwin, Virat Kohli, Rishabh Pant and debutant Axar Patel.

From the visitors' own ranks, No 9 Moeen Ali went on a six-hitting spree in his 18-ball 43 to show the ones above him in the order, how it is done on a dust bowl.

The Indian team currently is so strong that it could afford to rest its best pacer



India spinner Axar Patel celebrates with his teammates after he dismisses England captain Joe Root on Day 4 on second Test at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai PTI

India jump to 2nd spot

Chennai: The resounding 317-run win over England propelled India to second in the World Test Championship standings.

After the series-levelling win at Chepauk, India have 69.7 percentage of points (PCT) and 460 aggregate points, behind New Zealand who have already qualified for the WTC final to be held at the Lord's June.

New Zealand have 70.0 PCT and 420 points.

India, who had lost the first Test by 227 runs, need to win the one more and at least draw another to make it to the WTC final.

Australia are at the third spot with 69.2 PCT and 332 points while England are fourth with 67.0 PCT and 442 points.



'Mind of English batsmen' helped us dominate: Ashwin

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on Tuesday asserted that more than the turning Chepauk pitch, it was the "mind of the England batsmen" that helped his team dominate the second Test here, crediting his "pace and guile" for getting the maximum out of the track.

The quality of the pitch became a subject of intense debate and former England players like Michael Vaughan and Kevin Pietersen mocked it for being a dust bowl.

Ashwin, who was named man-of-the-match for his match figures of 8 for 96 and a brilliant century in India's second innings, played down the talk surrounding the pitch.

"As much as people were predicting things from the outside, I thought the balls that was doing much wasn't getting wickets. It was the mind of the batsmen that got us wickets," Ashwin said but did not elaborate on his comment on the rival batsmen.

"I have been playing for years over here now and it takes pace and guile to do it. Keeping intent was very important," he said after India's massive 317-

run win to level the four-match series 1-1.

Ashwin said he enjoyed his game in front of the home crowd as he is "aware" of the home conditions.

"Every load up gives a different result in terms of which way the pitch is behaving. I try and load up differently, use the breeze, use different angles to release the ball, speed of the run-up. This is working because I have created this awareness for myself.

"This wicket was very different to the one we played on in the first game. This was a red soil wicket, the first one was a clay wicket," said the 34-year-old who is just six short of the 400-wicket milestone.

Axar Patel, who took five for 60 in England's second innings on his Test debut, said variation in speed of the deliveries helped him.

"It's a good experience, to get a five-wicket haul on debut is special," he said.

"There was much happening on the pitch. It was about varying your speed and I just kept doing it. Forced the batsman to make mistakes. On the first day itself, it was turning. So, we bowled tight lines and got the rewards.

INDIA'S BIGGEST WIN BY RUNS IN TESTS

Margin	Opponent	Venue	Season
337 runs	South Africa	Delhi	2015-16
321 runs	New Zealand	Indore	2016-17
320 runs	Australia	Mohali	2008-09
318 runs	West Indies	North Sound	2019
317 runs	England	Chennai	2020-21

MOST WINS BY INDIAN SKIPPER IN HOME TESTS

Captain	P	W	L	D	Win%
Mahindra Singh Dhoni	30	21	3	6	70
Virat Kohli	28	21	2	5	75
Mohammed Azharuddin	20	13	4	3	65
Sourav Ganguly	21	10	3	8	47.61
Sunil Gavaskar	29	7	2	20	24.13

Faisal Features

Jasprit Bumrah, miss out its premier all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja but yet make a telling statement, nullifying any advantage that England team might have possessed.

Opener Rohit should

come in for special mention considering the start that India needed after first Test disaster. Rohit set the tone and then it was a Test match that Ravichandran Ashwin will remember forever.

Toss wouldn't have mattered in this game: Kohli

PTI ■ CHENNAI

India skipper Virat Kohli on Tuesday rejected criticism of the spin-friendly Chepauk pitch, asserting that his side showed the requisite grit and determination to conquer England on it in the second Test with the toss not being a matter of concern at all.

"We didn't panic out there looking at the turn and bounce, we showed grit, got into the game and scored 600 runs in the game. We know our bowlers would do the job for us if we put up these runs," Kohli said in the post-match presentation.

Former England players such as Kevin Pietersen had mocked the pitch for the turn

it offered from day one, calling it a "brave" track for a Test match and that fortunes could have swung the other way had India lost the toss and batted second.

Kohli said it wouldn't have mattered.

"If you looked at our second innings, we got 300 as well. It wasn't unfair if the toss went either way. Both teams should be in the game from the first session onwards, whether it is on spinning to seaming tracks, and that exactly was the case in this game," he said.

The India captain said playing before fans was a big factor in their massive victory as the home players were egged on by the cheering

crowd.

A disappointed England skipper Joe Root had no qualms in admitting that India outplayed them in all three departments.

"It has been an education for us, you could come up with conditions like these and we have to learn from this and find a way to score runs. We need to learn to build pressure and bowl six balls at one batsman," said Root.

"On day one we could have been a bit tighter, squeeze the game a bit more and make it harder for them to score.

"From day two it was a very difficult wicket to bat on. But we have got to be smarter about how we're building an innings."

UNRESERVED MAIL/EXPRESS SPECIAL TRAINS-2021

For the convenience of passenger, Northern Railway will run following trains as Unreserved Mail/Express Special trains from the dates shown against each till further advice, as per the programme mentioned below:-

Train No. & Name (Mail/Express Special)	From	Dep.	To	Arr.	W.E.F.
04202 Pratapgarh - Varanasi Special	Pratapgarh	16:15	Varanasi	21:15	22.02.2021
04201 Varanasi-Pratapgarh Special	Varanasi	06:00	Pratapgarh	09:15	22.02.2021
04203 Faizabad-Lucknow Jn. Special	Faizabad	05:35	Lucknow Jn.	09:40	22.02.2021
04204 Lucknow Jn.-Faizabad Special	Lucknow Jn.	17:00	Faizabad	21:25	22.02.2021
04213 Lucknow Jn.-Kanpur Special	Lucknow Jn.	07:05	Kanpur	09:00	22.02.2021
04214 Kanpur-Lucknow Jn. Special	Kanpur	18:50	Lucknow Jn.	21:40	22.02.2021
04503 Ambala Cantt.-Ludhiana Jn. Special	Ambala Cantt.	05:40	Ludhiana Jn.	08:10	22.02.2021
04504 Ludhiana Jn.-Ambala Cantt. Special	Ludhiana Jn.	16:10	Ambala Cantt.	18:45	22.02.2021
04501 Saharanpur-Una Himachal Special	Saharanpur	06:30	Una Himachal	12:15	22.02.2021
04502 Una Himachal-Saharanpur Special	Una Himachal	13:30	Saharanpur	19:10	22.02.2021
04402 Saharanpur-Delhi Special	Saharanpur	13:15	Delhi	18:30	22.02.2021
04401 Delhi-Saharanpur Special	Delhi	07:45	Saharanpur	13:00	22.02.2021
04404 Saharanpur-Delhi Special	Saharanpur	04:25	Delhi	08:45	22.02.2021
04403 Delhi-Saharanpur Special	Delhi	16:45	Saharanpur	21:10	22.02.2021
04405 H.Nizamuddin-Kurukshetra Jn. Special	H.Nizamuddin	18:10	Kurukshetra Jn.	22:30	22.02.2021
04406 Kurukshetra Jn.-H.Nizamuddin Special	Kurukshetra	05:35	H.Nizamuddin	09:45	22.02.2021
04407 Palwal-Ghaziabad Special	Palwal	06:00	Ghaziabad	08:20	22.02.2021
04409 Ghaziabad-Shakurbasti Special	Ghaziabad	09:00	Shakurbasti	10:30	22.02.2021
04410 Shakurbasti-Palwal Special	Shakurbasti	14:30	Palwal	16:35	22.02.2021
04301 Moradabad-Saharanpur Special	Moradabad	18:30	Saharanpur	23:50	22.02.2021
04302 Saharanpur-Moradabad Special	Saharanpur	04:25	Moradabad	09:20	22.02.2021
04303 Bareilly-Delhi Special	Bareilly	17:15	Delhi	03:25	23.02.2021
04304 Delhi-Bareilly Special	Delhi	23:50	Bareilly	09:40	22.02.2021
04305 Balamau-Shahjahanpur Special	Balamau	18:25	Shahjahanpur	21:55	22.02.2021
04306 Shahjahanpur-Balamau Special	Shahjahanpur	06:35	Balamau	10:10	22.02.2021
04601 Pathankot Jn.-Joginder Nagar Special	Pathankot Jn.	10:10	Joginder Nagar	19:55	22.02.2021
04602 Joginder Nagar-Pathankot Jn. Special	Joginder Nagar	07:05	Pathankot Jn.	17:05	23.02.2021
04603 Bhatinda Jn.-Firozpur Cantt. Special	Bhatinda Jn.	06:40	Firozpur Cantt.	08:50	22.02.2021
04604 Firozpur Cantt.-Bhatinda Jn. Special	Firozpur Cantt.	17:40	Bhatinda Jn.	19:55	22.02.2021
04611 Amritsar Jn.-Pathankot Jn. Special	Amritsar Jn.	06:45	Pathankot Jn.	09:55	22.02.2021
04612 Pathankot Jn.-Amritsar Jn. Special	Pathankot Jn.	17:30	Amritsar Jn.	20:30	22.02.2021
04613 Banihal-Baramula Special	Banihal	11:25	Baramula	15:00	22.02.2021
04614 Baramula-Banihal Special	Baramula	09:10	Banihal	12:20	22.02.2021
04615 Pathankot Jn.-Udhampur Special	Pathankot Jn.	04:40	Udhampur	09:15	22.02.2021
04616 Udhampur-Pathankot Jn. Special	Udhampur	15:55	Pathankot Jn.	20:05	22.02.2021

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Bairstow, Wood to join for D/N Test

Chennai: England on Tuesday brought in wicket-keeper Jonny Bairstow and pacer Mark Wood to their squad for the day/night Test against India, starting February 24 in Ahmedabad.

The selectors also decided to send spin all-rounder Moeen Ali, who played in the second game, back to England as part of their rotation policy to manage workload of the players.

Bairstow was given rest after the two-Test series against Sri Lanka, where he had scores of 47, 35 not out, 28 and 29.

"Moeen Ali will return to England for a break while Jonny Bairstow and Mark Wood join the squad having been rested for the first two Tests," ECB said in a statement.

PTI

Bumrah may be rested for white ball series

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's senior speedster Jasprit Bumrah is likely to be rested for the eight white ball matches against England as part of the team's extensive workload management programme.

Bumrah was rested for the second Test at Chepauk, which India won by 317 runs to level the four-match series 1-1. But he will be back in action for the upcoming two high-stakes Test matches in Ahmedabad, which will decide New Zealand's opposition in the inaugural World Test Championship final.

It is almost certain that the Indian think-tank (head coach Ravi Shastri, skipper Virat Kohli and bowling coach Bharath Arun) along with the trainers and physios would take a final call on resting the pace spear-



head, keeping a gruelling season in mind.

"Jassi has already bowled close to 180 overs, including nearly 150 overs (149.4 overs) in

four Test matches (till first Test versus England) since the start of Australian tour.

"Add to that, the number of hours spent on the field. It is only logical that after these two Tests in Motera, where he will have a big role to play, he should be given rest for white ball leg," a senior BCCI official, privy to the developments, told PTI.

The logic behind resting Bumrah for the white ball leg is simple. The five T20Is and three ODIs against England will be the last chance for Indian team management to have a look at all potential players going into this year's World Cup.

"Bhuvneshwar Kumar might make a comeback and Mohammed Shami after a break will play a few white ball games.

Nattu (T Natarajan) and Saini will also come back in the white ball teams. As far as Jassi is concerned, he can well get ready playing 14 to 16 high intensity IPL games for Mumbai Indians," the source said.

SKY MAY GET HIS CHANCE

Talented Mumbai batsman Suryakumar Yadav, after successive disappointments of not making the cut for white ball tours of New Zealand and Australia last year, may finally get a look-in as the selectors prepare a core team of 20 players with an eye on the T20 World Cup.

"With KL Rahul being one of the foremost choices with gloves and Rishabh Pant back in form, Suryakumar is likely to get a chance ahead of Sanju Samson," the source said.

Serena tops Halep, Osaka next

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

An unstoppable Serena Williams reached a 40th Grand Slam semifinal on Tuesday, overpowering second seed Simona Halep to book an Australian Open last-four showdown with Naomi Osaka.

The clinical seven-time champion, in her 20th Australian Open and 77th Grand Slam, was simply too intense in beating the Romanian 6-3, 6-3 on Rod Laver Arena.

"Definitely think this is the best match I have played this tournament, for sure," said 10th seed Williams, who is another step closer to a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title.

"Obviously I had to be going up against the number two in the world, so I knew I had to do better, and that's what I did and I'm excited."

Japan's Osaka stands between Williams and a place in another decider after the third seed crushed Taiwanese veteran Hsieh Su-wei 6-2, 6-2.

"I was pretty calm. I'm really happy how I played today," said Osaka, who hit 24 winners in a dominant display lasting just 66 minutes against her 35-year-old opponent.

The ultra-consistent Halep had only beaten Williams twice in 11 meetings going back a decade, but destroyed her 6-2, 6-2 the last time they met, in the 2019 Wimbledon final. But Williams came out all guns blazing to hold serve then

forced a break point with a searing cross-court backhand, taking a 2-0 lead when Halep sent a forehand long.

The Romanian, Williams' highest-ranked opponent since defeating then number two Osaka at Toronto in 2019, settled down and immediately broke

back. Williams' coach Patrick Mouratoglou said this week she was moving better than at any time since giving birth and she worked more break points in game six, converting on the second.

She was striking the ball hard, cleanly, and accurately, giving Halep few opportunities to counter-attack, and took the set in 36 minutes with a fittingly dominant love game.

But while easily outpacing Halep in hitting winners, her unforced error count was soaring and some poor shots gifted the Romanian an early break for 2-0 in the second set, with Williams turning to her box and asking: "What's happening?"

She regrouped to immediately strike back then failed to hold serve again as Halep became more aggressive, only for the second seed to throw away the advantage by allowing Williams to break once more.

The driven American finally held serve to level the set at 3-3 and in a mammoth, and decisive, six-minute game featuring a 20-shot rally edged ahead 4-3 on her sixth break point.

There was no way back for a dejected Halep as Williams held serve then took the honours on her second match point.

The 39-year-old, 23-time Major winner has lost four Slam finals while chasing Margaret Court's all-time mark since her last major victory at Melbourne Park in 2017 while pregnant.



Novak beats Zverev

AFP ■ MELBOURNE

Eight-time winner Novak Djokovic smashed his racket en route to a tense, four-set win over Germany's Alexander Zverev to reach his 39th Grand Slam semifinal at the Australian Open on Tuesday.

It was a patchy performance from the world No 1, who is nursing an abdominal injury and drew deeply on his mental fortitude to win 6-7 (6/8), 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (8/6) in three hours and 30 minutes.

"With this condition (injury), I need time to warm up and actually feel like I can rotate well," said Djokovic, who started sluggishly but finished with 23 aces and 48 winners, along with 56 unforced errors.

"I started moving better and playing better. I served extremely well and I think I had slightly more aces than him, which for me is a miracle. There were a lot of nerves out there and I feel emotionally a bit drained. I kind of regained my focus after I broke that racket and things started to shift to me in a positive direction."

Djokovic will be hot favourite to advance to Sunday's final when he plays Russian qualifier Aslan Karatsev, who continued his dream run with a 2-6, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 win against injured Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov.