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FROM AFGHANISTAN

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Modi vows to resurrect Sonar Bengal

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



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

PTI

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ CHINSURA

A (we want real change). That is how Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday referred to the political will of the people of an election-bound Bengal.

"The people have made up their mind to bring about the real poriborton... the one that will restore Bengal to its glorious past converting it to the real Sonar Bangla (Golden Bengal)," the Prime Minister

told a mammoth rally at Shahganj in Hooghly district about 50 km from Kolkata.

The Prime Minister inaugurated the extension of Metro Railway from Noapara to Dakshineswar and flagged off the first service on this 4.1 km stretch — constructed at a cost of ₹464 crore — joining the two famous Kali Temples of Dakshineswar and Kalighat.

The PM used the occasion to launch a scathing attack on the Mamata Banerjee Government for "only perpe-

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

Slamming the alleged "cut-money culture, syndicate raj, criminalisation of politics and politicisation of administration, the Prime Minister said,

"Bengal will continue to lag behind till syndicate raj and cut money culture continues in the State," reminding how in the past people from other States came to Kolkata for earning their bread "but today the local

people have to move out to other States for employment."

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

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

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

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

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

ture in the State.

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

can the State develop... for this you need real change," he said.

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

CBI quizzes Abhishek kin, wife may be grilled today

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

Rujira Banerjee, the wife of Abhishek Banerjee, is likely to be quizzed on Tuesday.

The CBI had on Sunday sent a notice to her for questioning. According to sources, Rujira has agreed to meet the CBI officials on Tuesday.

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

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

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

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

Covid upsurge after Nov hints at second wave

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the fifth consecutive day, active Covid-19 cases in the country continue to rise, crossing the 1.5 lakh mark in 17 days, which is the steepest overall increase since November-end, an indication of the second wave of infection setting in.

The increase in active cases is also double than 1.5 per cent recorded this time last week.

The total number of new cases reported per day has also increased from a low of 9,121 on February 16 to 14,199 on Monday, with the seven-day moving average increasing by 13.8 per cent. The total tally of Covid-19 cases on Monday crossed 1.10 crore and the toll reached close to 1,56,500.

The spike in national numbers comes as five States — Maharashtra, Kerala, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh — report increased daily numbers. The Centre has warned all five States that continued "adherence to Covid-appropriate behaviour" is critical to breaking the chain of transmission and contain coronavirus.

"Over 74 per cent of active cases are in Kerala and Maharashtra... there has also been a spike in Chhattisgarh



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

PTI

and Madhya Pradesh... Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir are also witnessing a surge in daily new cases," the Health Ministry said on Sunday.

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

In Kerala, the second worst-affected State, the seven-day moving average of new cases was 4,361 this morning and 4,070 new cases were reported in 24 hours.

Dadra & Nagar Haveli MP found hanging in hotel

Suicide note found in Mumbai hotel

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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



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

PTI

Mumbai Police spokesperson Chaitanya S said.

Known popularly as Mohanbhai, Delkar was a member of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice and a member of the Consultative Committee, Ministry of Home Affairs.

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

Puducherry Govt falls as CM resigns ahead of trust vote

PNS ■ NEWDELHI/ PUDUCHERRY

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

Narayanasamy met Lt Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan and submitted the resignation letter to Lt Governor Dr Tamilisai Soundararajan on Monday PTI

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

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



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

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

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

Amid Covid, C'garh ensured inclusive growth: Guv

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Overcoming the challenges posed by Covid-19, the Chhattisgarh Government put the economy rolling by recording milestones in all sectors with inclusive growth, Governor Anusuiya UIkey said on Monday.

Addressing the start of the Assembly's Budget Session, she detailed how the pandemic led to unprecedented issues ranging from livelihood and food for the poor, malnutrition, influx of migrants, Covid and its treatment, economy and retaining people's morale.

Fortunately, the New Year has emerged with a hope of putting behind all the woes of last year, the Governor said.

Listing out various achievements, UIkey said food security was given to 67 lakh ration card holder families and 57 lakh people under 'antyodaya', providing two quintals of rice in 11,000 villages and distributing



ready-to-eat cooked food to anganwadi children and the pregnant.

As a result, 99,000 children gave up malnutrition and 20,000 women got free from anemia.

The Governor patted the government for taking pro-farmer steps. She mentioned the record 95.40 percent procurement of the total production of

paddy at MSP, distribution of ₹4,755 crores as interest free loan to farmers and Kisan Credit Card to 16 lakh farmers.

Chhattisgarh stood in the top by procuring 72.5 percent of minor forest produce.

The Governor highlighted the awards won by the state government while implementing central

schemes and the other areas of success for the government.

Congress MLA Shailesh Pandey moved the Motion of Thanks to the Governor's address.

The Speaker said a debate will be held on February 25-26 on the address and adjourned the House till Tuesday.

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Punjab CM launches development projects worth ₹1,087 cr

AMRUT SCHEMES

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Laying the foundation stones and inaugurating a slew of projects worth ₹1,087 crores virtually for holistic development of urban areas under the Centre's Smart City and , Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday urged the Central Government to include the holy city of Sri Anandpur Sahib under the Smart City scheme, as a tribute to Guru Tegh Bahadur on his 400th birth anniversary. Thanking the people of the State for their overwhelming support to the Congress party in the recently-concluded civic elections, Capt Amarinder said that the man-

date is a vindication of the pro-people policies of Congress Government.

Pointing out that while the Congress had won 1,410 of the 2,206 wards (64 per cent), the Chief Minister said that all the opposition parties had been decimated because of their anti-people and vicious negative agendas.

He lambasted the earlier Akali-BJP regime for ignoring the development of urban areas and expressed confidence that the launch of these projects will drive sustainable progress in these regions.

The Chief Minister said that he was particularly delighted today to lay the foundation stone of the ₹721 crore Surface Water Supply Scheme for Amritsar city, his erstwhile

Parliamentary constituency. This scheme would ensure access to clean drinking water to the residents of the holy city, instead of the contaminated and fast depleting ground water, he added.

"Under the first phase of Urban Infrastructure Improvement Program (UIIP), 2,065 projects have been started, with majority being completed, at a cost of Rs 300 crores.

Another 4,227 projects have been approved under the second phase and work on 1,300 of them has already started," said the Chief Minister.

Giving details of the progress of Smart City projects in Amritsar, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, and Sultanpur Lodhi



under his government, Capt Amarinder said that of the total allocation of Rs 3,000 crores, works worth Rs 1,246 crores had been started or completed so far.

"While the tenders for works worth Rs 918 crores have already been issued, the process of issuing tenders for works worth Rs 802 crores is already underway," said the Chief Minister adding that in contrast to this, SAD-BJP regime (2007-17) had merely spent Rs 35 crores during their decade long rule under this scheme.

"Congress Government has already allocated Rs 2,785 crores under the AMRUT scheme for 16 towns and work on projects worth Rs 2,740 crores is underway," said the

Chief Minister.

Taking a dig at the Akali-BJP combine, the Chief Minister said: "They totally ignored this scheme and spent merely Rs 18 crores in 10 years of their rule...The scheme aims at providing 100 per cent water supply and sewerage and so far 1072 kms of Water Supply and 698 Kms of Sewerage pipelines had been laid, besides the release of 69,304 Household Water Supply and 43,611 Household Sewerage connections."

Local Government Minister Brahm Mohindra said that Capt Amarinder had taken personal interest in ensuring proper hygiene and sanitation in the urban areas during the difficult phase of COVID-19 pandemic.

Capt Amarinder to lead Cong in 2022 Punjab polls: Jakhar

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab Pradesh Congress Committee (PPCC) president Sunil Jakhar on Monday said that Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh would lead the party in 2022 Assembly polls, as the people of the State had reposed their faith in his leadership with their landslide verdict in Congress' favour in the recent civic polls.

Jakhar, participating in the event for the launch of various developmental projects worth Rs 1087 crores by the Chief Minister, said: "Congress party's sweeping victory in the civic polls has not only revalidated Capt Amarinder's leadership in the State but is an endorsement of the faith of Punjabis in his future leadership also."

Punjab to develop Siswan as world class tourist destination

PNS ■ MOHALI/CHANDIGARH

Punjab Government is all set to develop Siswan as the world class tourist destination by providing facilities like Nature Interpretation Center, Thematic Gates and signage, food court, nature trails, jungle safari, among others.

To promote Siswan as a prime and preferred eco tourism destination, the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh on Monday released various promotional and informational materials including brochures, pamphlets, and movie teasers, besides launching a logo of Siswan Community Reserve.

"Siswan is to be developed as a world class tourist destination. Keeping in mind the

immense tourism potential of the area, various initiatives have been taken up in the area," said the Chief Minister.

Primarily, the visitor amenities like Nature Interpretation Center, Thematic Gates and signage, food court, washroom facilities, nature trails, jungle safari would be provided. The conservation issues like introduction of spotted deer, wild hares, and other species — which once thrived in the area but have reduced in numbers through the years — are also being addressed.

The Chief Minister said that the development of tourist-friendly infrastructure and amenities, coupled with promotional activities, will lead to increase in footfall which will

subsequently benefit the local community by way of additional job creation and various income generating activities.

He also appreciated the successful organization of the Punjab Bird Festival which has received widespread acclaim from various parts of the country also and released the proceedings of the festival called 'Retrospect'. Pertinently, situated on the foothills of the Shiwaliks, Siswan has dense forests, pristine water, and rich biodiversity making it a perfect destination for nature lovers. The area has a rich history, with fossil records indicating the presence of the Soanian civilization. The area also falls in the old trade route connecting India with the middle Asian countries and Eastern Europe.

Haryana CM bats for starting new courses for skill development of youth

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday said emphasis should be laid on starting new courses for the skill development of youth so as to ensure that they get ample employment opportunities. Besides this, to popularize these courses among youth, monitoring and certification of the courses related to skill development should be done at Shri Vishwakarma Skill University.

Speaking at the launch of Skilling Portal of the Haryana Skill Development Mission here in which Skill Development and Industrial Training, Minister, Mool Chand Sharma was also present, Khattar said that on Parivar Pehchan Patra portal, such youths who have registered themselves as unemployed should be skilled as per their educational qualifications so that they can become self-reliant.

Additional Chief Secretary, Skill Development and Industrial Training Department, Raja Sekhar Vundru, apprised the Chief Minister that the courses being run by 11 departments have been integrated through this portal. With this, Haryana has become the first state in the country which has developed such a portal. He said that through this portal, interested youth can select the courses and training centres available at district levels and soon a mobile application would also be launched in this regard.

Besides this, along with Saksham Yuva Portal and Rozgar Portal web link of this portal should also be linked with Jansahayak app so that the

students studying in XII, graduation and post graduation can also get necessary information about these courses.

The Chief Minister said that with the launch of this portal, youth of the state can now get information about more than 200 courses being offered at 357 skill training centres. To ensure that interested youth can choose a better option, the skilled training centres have also been given a five star rating for certification and placement based on their previous performance, said the Chief Minister.

Khattar said that the time duration of these skill development courses should also be made available on this portal so that the interested youth can choose courses as per their needs and preference. Besides this, self-financed courses with prescribed fee structure should also be started, directed Khattar. He said that Soft skill courses can be offered. Under this, Japanese, Chinese or other foreign languages can be taught.

The CM said that understanding the difference between education and a skilling is very important because skilling is key to identify anyone's talent. Similarly, even employed persons need to get necessary training to increase their efficiency, he said. Khattar said everyone has to update their mobile phones time to time so as to use new features, similarly there is a need for imparting continuous training to improve and update the efficiency of government officials and employees. For this, Haryana Institute of Public Administration is imparting training to the government employees.

APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of immovable property(ies)
E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/ charged to **Indiabulls Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd. [CIN: U67110MH2006PLC305312] ("Secured Creditor")**, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on **26.03.2021** from **02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M.** (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of **Rs. 1,07,89,273/- (Rupees One Crore Seven Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Three only)** towards Loan Account No. **D034XII-01** [earlier being Loan Account No. **HHLRPR00272596** ("old Loan Account")] by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **15.02.2021** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. **16.02.2021** along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **DIVYANSH METAL & MINERALS (THROUGH PARTNERS), MRS. PREETI SARAF, MR. RAGHENDRA KUMAR SARAF and MR. RUPESH SARAF.**

The old Loan Account along with its underlying security(ies), including the immovable property(ies), had been assigned to and in favour of the Secured Creditor, acting in its capacity as Trustee for **Indiabulls ARC-XII Trust**, vide Assignment Agreement dated **31.12.2019**.

The Reserve Price of the immovable Property will be **Rs. 90,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety Lakh only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 9,00,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of **INDIABULLS ARC-XII TRUST, Account No. 919020097236431** with Axis Bank Ltd. (IFSC: UTIB0000131), having its branch at G. L. 5, 6, 7 and 8, Ground Floor, Cross Point, Phase IV, D.L.F. Qutab Enclave Complex, Gurugram – 122009 (Haryana), before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY(IES)
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL IN DIVERTED LAND PROPERTY BEARING PART OF DIVERTED SURVEY NO. 226/16, 56, 57, 58, 61, 62 & 63, LAND AREA ADMEASURING 12582 SQUARE FEET IN VRINDAVAN COLONY SITUATED IN VILLAGE SADDU, P.H. NO. 109, R.I.C. RAIPUR 1, TEHSIL & DISTRICT RAIPUR, WITHIN KUSABHAU THAKRE, WARD NO. 26 OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, RAIPUR – 492001, CHHATTISGARH. THE SAID PROPERTY IS BOUNDED AS UNDER:

NORTH : ROAD **SOUTH : OTHER'S LAND**
EAST : PLOT NO. 20 **WEST : ROAD**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullssarc.com and www.auctionfocus.in

Date : 16.02.2021
Place : RAIPUR

Sd/
Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LTD.
TRUSTEE OF INDIABULLS ARC- XII TRUST

APPENDIX IV A
[See proviso to Rule 8(6)]
Sale Notice for sale of immovable property(ies)
E-Auction sale notice for sale of immovable assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property(ies) mortgaged/ charged to **Indiabulls Asset Reconstruction Co. Ltd. [CIN: U67110MH2006PLC305312] ("Secured Creditor")**, the constructive possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Secured Creditor, will be sold on "as is where is", "as is what is", "whatever there is" and "without any recourse" basis on **26.03.2021** from **02.00 P.M. to 04.00 P.M.** (with unlimited automated extensions of 5 minutes each in terms of the Tender Document), for recovery of **Rs. 77,74,068/- (Rupees Seventy Seven Lakh Seventy Four Thousand and Sixty Eight only)** towards Loan Account No. **D034XII-02** [earlier being Loan Account No. **HLLRPR00272255** ("old Loan Account")] by way of outstanding principal, arrears (including accrued late charges) and interest till **15.02.2021** with applicable future interest in terms of the Loan Agreement and other related loan document(s) w.e.f. **16.02.2021** along with legal expenses and other charges due to the Secured Creditor from **DIVYANSH METAL & MINERALS (THROUGH PARTNERS), PREETI SARAF, RAGHENDRA SARAF and RUPESH SARAF.**

The old Loan Account along with its underlying security(ies), including the immovable property(ies), had been assigned to and in favour of the Secured Creditor, acting in its capacity as Trustee for **Indiabulls ARC-XII Trust**, vide Assignment Agreement dated **31.12.2019**.

The Reserve Price of the immovable Property will be **Rs. 90,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety Lakh only)** and the Earnest Money Deposit ("EMD") will be **Rs. 9,00,000/- (Rupees Nine Lakh only)** i.e. equivalent to 10% of the Reserve Price. The EMD shall be paid by DD/ RTGS/ NEFT or through any other proper banking channels to the credit and in favour of **INDIABULLS ARC-XII TRUST, Account No. 919020097236431** with Axis Bank Ltd. (IFSC: UTIB0000131), having its branch at G. L. 5, 6, 7 and 8, Ground Floor, Cross Point, Phase IV, D.L.F. Qutab Enclave Complex, Gurugram – 122009 (Haryana), before submitting the tender in order to participate in the online public auction. The successful bidder shall pay 25% amount of the sale price (less 10% of the Reserve Price paid before submitting the tender) immediately i.e. either on the same day or not later than the next working day and the remaining balance of the Sale Price shall be paid within 15 days from the date of confirmation of sale.

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY(IES)
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL IN DIVERTED LAND PROPERTY BEARING PART OF DIVERTED SURVEY NO. 226/16, 56, 57, 58, 61, 62 & 63 LAND AREA ADMEASURING 10000 SQ. FT. (9200 COMMERCIAL AREA & 800 SQ. FT. ADJOINING LAND) KUSABHAU THAKRE WARD NO.-26, VRINDAVAN, VILLAGE-SADDU, P.H. NO.-109, RAIPUR – 492007, CHHATTISGARH AND BOUNDED AS UNDER:

NORTH : SELLER'S LAND **SOUTH : ROAD**
EAST : PLOT NO.-38,39 & 40 **WEST : ROAD**

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided on the website of the Secured Creditor i.e. www.indiabullssarc.com and www.auctionfocus.in

Date : 17.02.2021
Place : RAIPUR

Sd/
Authorized Officer
INDIABULLS ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LTD.
TRUSTEE OF INDIABULLS ARC- XII TRUST

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Haryana on Monday recorded 106 new coronavirus cases, taking the total number of infections in the State to 2,69,836, a health department bulletin said.

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the Authorised Officer of **Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited** under Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002, and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued Demand Notices under Section 13 (2) of the said Act, calling upon the following borrowers to repay the amounts mentioned against their respective name together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notices, along with further interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc. incurred till the date of payment and/ or realization.

Loan No. / Bank Name	Borrower / Co-Borrower / Guarantor Name	Demand Notice Due as on / Date	Date & Type of Possession
SHLHRAIP0000058	Shobha Benarjee	20/04/2018 ₹ 30,98,543/-	19/02/2021 Physical

Property Description: All The Piece and Parcel Of Property Admeasuring An Area Of 1500 Sq. Ft. Situated At Plot No. 48, Part Of Khasara No. 505, Gogaoan, Pc No. 107, Ric- Raipur -I, Tehsil & District - Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

Whereas the borrowers mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the public in general that the Authorised Officer of Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. has taken **Physical Possession** of the properties/Secured Assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under Section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on the dates mentioned above. The borrowers mentioned hereinabove in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/Secured Assets will be subject to the charge of Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Limited. The Borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Place: Chattisgarh
Date: February 23, 2021.

Sd/-
Authorized Officer
ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY (INDIA) LTD.
CIN No.: U65999MH2002PLC134884 • www.arcl.co.in
Registered Office:- The Ruby, 10th Floor, 29 Senapati Bapat Marg, Mumbai - 400028. • Tel: 022-66581300 / 399.
Contact Address: 404, 4th Floor, Apra Tower, SCO-130 to 132, Near Basant Restaurant, Feroze Gandhi Market, Ludhiana. • Tel: 0161-4567603.

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Condemning Punjab Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh for hogging all the publicity in the centrally-funded schemes to project his image, BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh on Monday said: "It's a matter of shame that the dream schemes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi are being branded as Amarinder Singh's scheme in Punjab for hogging deceptive and cheap publicity."

He said that the Modi Government's dream projects like Smart City, HRIDAY project and AMRUT project are

carrying stamp of Capt Amarinder though he has nothing to do with it. "This reflects bankruptcy of the Capt Amarinder Singh government which has failed to fulfill election promises it made in 2017 and is now finding glory in the Modi Government schemes," said Chugh.

Chugh said that the development of historical towns like Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Amritsar, Sultanpur Lodhi, Khanna, among others was being done under the Central schemes allocating crores of rupees which Capt Amarinder government is claiming to be its achievement.

Punjab witnessing rise in Covid-19 cases

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Punjab, it seems, is staring at the second Covid-19 wave. The state is witnessing a steady

rise in the daily number of coronavirus cases, especially since a week. With the state reporting 389 fresh cases — highest this year — on Monday, the total number of active cases in the State has reached 3,167. Punjab had 2,101 active cases on February 1 — an increase of 51 per cent.

Among the districts, Jalandhar reported the maximum fresh cases (54), followed by 49 from SAS Nagar (Mohali), 38 from Hoshiarpur, 37 each from Ludhiana and Amritsar, 32 from SBS Nagar (Nawanshahr), 26 from Kapurthala, 22 from Patiala, among others.

With this, the total number of positive cases reported till date in the state has reached 1,78,847.

On Monday, the state reported 15 deaths — three each from Jalandhar and Ludhiana, two each from Gurdaspur and Hoshiarpur, while one casualty each was reported from Amritsar, Bathinda, Ferozepur, Patiala, and Tarn Taran.

The state's fatality rate continued to hover above three since more than three months, notwithstanding the remarkable dip in the daily cases. On Monday, the state's death toll reached 5,769 at the rate of 3.23 per cent.

As the state has eased all COVID restrictions, and

opened all educational institutions, shopping complexes, cinema halls, multiplexes, eateries, among others, considering the falling numbers, high number of cases were being reported from various parts of the state, especially from the schools.

In fact, the state's health officials attributed the hike in COVID-19 cases to the casual attitude of the people and not adhering to the safety protocols like wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, among others. The data released by the state's Health Department indicated that Punjab is recording daily cases between 200 and 350 for the last several days. Since February 1, the state has reported nearly 5,000 cases till date. "People are not following COVID-19 safety precautions like wearing masks and maintaining social distancing which is the main reason behind the surge in cases in the state," said Rajesh Bhaskar, Punjab's nodal officer for Covid-19. Notably, some students and teachers, testing positive for the coronavirus in Nawanshahr, Ludhiana, and other districts has also contributed to the infection tally.

Nawanshahr has the highest number of active cases in the state at 573, followed by 421 in Ludhiana and 411 in Mohali.

SAD to 'gherao' Assembly on opening day of Budget Session

The decision to gherao the Assembly was taken during the SAD's core committee meeting

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

Shiromani Akali Dal will Sgherao the Punjab Vidhan Sabha on the opening day of the forthcoming Budget Session on March 1 "to give voice to the widespread popular resentment against the Capt Amarinder Singh's sacrilegious act of breaking his oath of promises made to the people of Punjab ahead of the last assembly elections in Punjab".

Besides, the party's protest will also focus on the "back-breaking" hike in electricity bills as well as in the prices of diesel, petrol, and cooking gas as a result of excessive central and state government taxes even while the overall crude oil prices in the world market have registered a fall.

The decision to gherao the Assembly was taken during the SAD's core committee meeting, held on Monday under the leadership of party chief Sukhbir Badal, which also condemned the "shocking insensitivity" of the Congress Government towards Dalit youth "through its brazen denial of Post Matric Scholarships to them".

Chola
CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai-600 001
Branch Office: Shop No 416 4th Floor National Corporate Park G.E.Road Raipur (C.G.) - 492001.

POSSESSION NOTICE Under Rule 8 (1)

WHEREAS the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 hereinafter called the Act and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rules 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued demand notices calling upon the borrowers, whose names have been indicated in Column [B] below on dates specified in Column [C] to repay the outstanding amount indicated in Column [D] below with interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described in Column [E] herein below on the respective dates mentioned in Column [F] in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4) of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under. The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in Column [E] below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited for an amount mentioned in Column [D] along with interest and other charges.

Under section 13 [8] of the Securitisation Act, the borrowers can redeem the secured asset by payment of the entire outstanding including all costs, charges and expenses before notification of sale.

SI No.	NAME AND ADDRESS OF BORROWER & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE	OUTSTANDING AMOUNT	DETAILS OF PROPERTY POSSESSED	DATE OF SYMBOLIC POSSESSION
A	B	C	D	E	F
1.	LoanNo. X0HERRH00001997123 1.BACHITAR SINGH SETHI, House No.- 21 Phase-1, Capital City Saddu, Raipur-492001 2.SCOTT INTERNATIONAL PVT LTD, Office No.5, Hotel Amit, Moti Bagh Chowk, Raipur, Raipur-492001 3.AMARJEET SINGH SETHI, 4.KARAMBIR SINGH SETHI, 5.JASBIR KAUR SETHI, 6.JATTANDEEP SINGH SETHI, SI.No.3-6 residing at : House No-21, Phase-1, Capital City Saddu, Raipur-492001	15.07.2020	Rs. 1,08,25,153.04 as on 14.07.2020	All that piece and parcel of property bearing Plot No.21 part of Survey No.226/13, Land area admeasuring-2100 Sq.Fts, sultated at Kusba Bhau Thakare Ward No.26, Village- Saddu, P.H.No-109, City, Tehsil and District Raipur.	20.02.2021

Place: Raipur
Date : 20.02.2021

M/s. Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited
AUTHORISED OFFICER

Bilaspur gets National Award for PM Kisan Samman Nidhi



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR Bilaspur district in Chhattisgarh has achieved the top position in the country in implementing Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. The Union

Agriculture Ministry will present the award in New Delhi on February 24.

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel and Agriculture Minister Ravindra Choubey have congratulated the farmers, describing it as a proud achievement for the state.

Baghel said the government is working with full integrity and honesty in the field of farmer welfare. "Our top priority is to enrich the farmers."

Bilaspur district has been the number one district in the country in terms of Aadhaar authentication and providing benefits to farmers.

Bilaspur will be conferred the honour in New Delhi on February 24.

Bilaspur won the National Water Award in 2019 for conservation and restoration of rivers.

Raipur Police to hold walk over crime against women



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Raipur Police will organize a walk to promote zero tolerance of crime against women on March 7 from 6 to 8 am at Marine Drive (Telibandha Pond) here to mark the International Women's Day, it was announced on Monday.

The aim behind the event

is to connect more women with the police so that they share their problems or talk about crime against them, Raipur Additional Superintendent of Police Lakhman Patle Pawar said.

Raipur Police have constituted four teams to provide security to and address the grievances of women, he said.

CM launches mobile App to monitor proposed industrial units

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Monday launched a Mobile Application to monitor the proposed major industrial projects.

Industry and Commerce (Excise) Minister Kawsari Lakhma was present at the event in the Assembly premises.

The mobile application has been developed by the Industries and Commerce department. It is available on Android and Apple play store.

It will facilitate the industrialists to share all necessary documents and phases of completion of units, an official communi-



cation said.

A senior officer of each proposed unit will interact with officials of the concerned department to clear issues, it said.

For an investment of ₹42,500 crores in the state,

MoUs have been signed to establish industrial units. Sixteen units are proposed in the most backward regions of Bastar division. The construction work of 40 industrial units have begun.

Shooting c'ship from Feb 27



STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh Pradesh Rifle Association will hold the 19th state level shooting championship from February 27 at Mana Camp on the outskirts of Raipur, it was announced on Monday.

Association General Secretary Rakesh Gupta told reporters that various competitions in 10 meters, 25 meters and 50 meters with 22 bore

rifle, air rifle and air pistol will be organized.

Shooters who score as per the criteria of the National Rifle Association of India will be selected for the East Zone Shooting Championship of March 11-14 in West Bengal, Gupta said.

And shooters who will qualify in the East Zone championship will be selected for the national championship to be held in April, he said.

Police constable booked for thrashing doctors

RAIPUR: A police constable was booked on charges of thrashing two junior doctors and misbehaving with senior doctors at the Dr BR Ambedkar Memorial Hospital here on Monday.

According to the hospital management, Constable Shatruhan Oroan beat up Dr Aman and Dr Manoj while they were on duty.

The two policemen posted at the hospital could not control their colleague. So, they have been replaced by two other policemen.

After the incident, Medical College Dean Dr Vishnu Dutt, Hospital Superintendent Dr Vinit Jain and Radiology Department head Dr S.B.S. Netam met Additional Superintendent of Police (City) Lakhman Patle.

On their demand, four additional policemen were appointed at the hospital to provide security to the doctors.

The hospital has demanded deployment of armed guards at the hospital and police patrolling in the wards and OPD.

Dr Khoobchand Baghel was symbol of self-esteem: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Dr Khoobchand Baghel was a visionary for Chhattisgarh and a symbol of self-esteem, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel said on Monday.

Paying tribute to the departed leader, Baghel said Dr. Baghel wanted people of the state to lead a life of self-respect, be self-reliant and progress in all walks of life.

The Chief Minister was addressing an event to mark the 52nd death anniversary of Dr Baghel in village Pathri (Dharsiva) in Raipur district, an official



communication said.

Baghel said Dr Baghel fought for the identity of state residents and against social evils. He was a strong proponent of Chhattisgarhi culture.

He formed the 'Chhattisgarh Bhaatru Sangh' in 1967 and raised the demand for a separate Chhattisgarh, said the Chief Minister.

Baghel announced that a road connecting village Pathri will be converted as a two-lane road and a statue of Dr Baghel will be put up at the main square at Nava Raipur.

Pre-wedding shoot in CM's chopper, one suspended

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

A couple allegedly roped in a driver and photographed themselves in a government chopper and uploaded the images on social media, sparking a row and leading to the driver's suspension on Monday.

The suspension order by the Directorate of Aviation said driver Yogeshwar Sai allegedly facilitated the entry of unauthorized persons in the state hangar in violation of the Chhattisgarh Civil Service (Conduct) Rule 1965.

Sai has been attached with the Directorate of Aviation at Nava Raipur.

State Congress spokesperson Vikas Tiwari on Monday wrote to Director General of Police D.M. Awasthi demanding a thorough investigation and "strict action".

"The room in the state hangar was used as a changing room and several photos and videos were taken during the pre-wedding shoot. It is a major lapse in Chief Minister's security which should be seriously investigated," Tiwari said in a letter.

**GOVERNMENT OF CHHATTISGARH, WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER
MAHANADI GODAWARI BASIN
RAIPUR (C.G.)**

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>
(1st Call)

System Tender No. : 71780/NIT No. : 11/SAC/2020-21, Mahasamund, Dated : 19.02.2021
Online Tenders are invited for The Following Works up to 12.03.2021 at 17:30 Hour (IST) :-

Name of Work : RENOVATION OF HEAD WORK, REPAIR OF SLUICE, WASTE WEIR, CHUTE FALL & FOOT BRIDGE AND REMODELING & C.C. LINING OF MAIN CANAL, MINOR & SUB MINOR, REPAIR OF 20 NOS. CANAL STRUCTURE, RECONSTRUCTION OF 02 NOS. STRUCTURE & CONSTRUCTION OF 10 NOS. STRUCTURE & FIXING OF 54 NOS. COLABA OUTLET OF KALIDARHA TANK SCHEME IN SARAPALI BLOCK OF MAHASAMUND DISTRICT.

Probable Amount :- Rs. 807.76 Lakhs
of Contract

The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Chhattisgarh Integrated e-Procurement Portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) from Date 26.02.2021, at 17:31 Hours.(IST) onwards.

NOTE :- All eligible/intrested contractors/bidders are mandated to get enrolled on the Integrated e-procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) and get approval on specific vendor class from PWD under Centralized Contractor/Supplier Registration in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Water Resources Division, Mahasamund
For, Chief Engineer, Mahanadi Godawari Basin
Water Resources Department, Raipur (C.G.)
G- 87247/7 Ryp/Dtd 22.2.21

Singh Deo reviews Covid vaccination status

STAFF REPORTER ■ RAIPUR

Chhattisgarh Health Minister T.S. Singh Deo on Monday reviewed the progress of the Covid vaccination drive as well as progress in construction of a new medical college.

The Minister inquired about the progress in vaccinating frontline workers (FLWs) and health workers in the state, a press release said.

He also compared the progress of Chhattisgarh's Covid vaccination with other states. Chhattisgarh is among the top 10 states performing well in Covid vaccination, the press release said.

He also inquired about the progress in administering the second dose of Covid



vaccination. He asked officials to prepare an action plan for the future and consider increasing the number of days for vaccination if needed. Meanwhile, the Health

Department said that by Monday 80.61 percent of health workers in Chhattisgarh were administered the first dose of Covid vaccine. Also, 10.12 percent

health workers have received the second dose of the vaccine.

Further, 59.89 percent of the frontline workers were also vaccinated by Monday.

**OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, CIRCLE NO-1 RAIPUR (C.G.)**

Tender Notice
(2nd Call)

Contractors, Registered appropriate class in Unified Registration System [e-Registration] invited Online tenders for the following works :-

NIT No./ System Tender No.	Name of Work	Probable amount of contract
1	2	3
158/71632	CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD AT RAMAN MANDIR WARD UNDER DISTT. RAIPUR L-2.00 KM	Rs. 43.89 Lakh

Last date of tender Download up to 02.03.2021 17:30 PM

● Note :- All eligible/interested contractors are mandated to get enrolled on the e-Procurement portal (<https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>) in order to download the tender documents and participate in the subsequent bidding process.

Superintending Engineer
P.W.D. Raipur Circle No-1
Raipur (C.G.)
G- 87254/4 Ryp/Dtd 22.2.21

Modi: India on its way to export weapons to world

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

2020-21.

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

The total budget for the coming fiscal is ₹4.78 lakh crore. Addressing the webinar on the effective implementation of the Union Budget's provisions in the defence sector, Modi listed a series of measures taken by his Government to boost self-reliance in the defence sector and rued the fact that the country is amongst the biggest defence importers in the world.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

It said these sectors are identified by meticulous

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

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

Deputy EC to visit Bengal to assess preparedness for Assembly elections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

one UT on the same day — February 16.

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



Kolkata on February 25 to review preparedness ahead of the Assembly elections. During his visit, Jain is scheduled to hold meetings with district magistrates, and other senior officials of the State, they said.

EC officials said that Jain may also meet officers transferred to the different departments, mainly in the administration and the police, during his visit to West Bengal. The terms of their legislative assemblies are ending on separate dates in May and June and elections are likely to be held in April. The Commission was responding to certain reports claiming that central forces were being specifically sent to West Bengal.

NIA chargesheets 2 aides in LeT conspiracy case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

BJP wins 2 RS seats from Gujarat unopposed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

Amid Covid odds, the milk of human kindness

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

"We conducted an awareness programme along with

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

which in general is the ultimate vision of the NCDC.

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

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

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

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

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

		GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA		TENDER NOTICE			
SR. No.	NAME OF DEPARTMENT	NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER	OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE	AMOUNT / EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES	WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT	NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL	
1	PWD B&R,AMBALA	CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROAD FROM RATTANGARH KAKRALI TO BICHYAN IN KURUKSHETRA DISTRICT (ID 9741) (CMA NO.24187 DATED 19/02/2019) – PD-1 KURUKSHETRA	17.02.2021 04.03.2021	117.68 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9729017798 pww-espdl- kurukshetra@hry.nic.in	
2	PWD B&R, PANCHKULA	TENDER FOR THE WORK OF CONSTRUCTION OF SSO OFFICE BUILDING AT DIRECTOR HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT IN SECTOR 21, PANCHKULA.	22.02.2021 08.03.2021	31.19 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9697200008 pww-espdl- panchkula@hry.nic.in	
3	PWD B&R, JIND	SPECIAL REPAIR OF JULANA-BADCHAPPER ROAD FROM RD 0.000 TO 1.110 IN JIND DISTT. (ROAD ID 6659)	CLOSING DATE 09.03.2021	104.34 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01681-249416 pwwdeepjind@gmail.com	
4	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,KAITHAL	RECONSTRUCTION OF V.R. BRIDGE AT RD 36078 OF KAITHAL DRAIN	24.02.2021 03.03.2021	1.38 CRORE	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01746-298412 xensarasvatidnkt@gmail.com	
5	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,HISAR	REMODELING OF BARWALA BRANCH FROM RD 15400 TO 17400 + 24 OTHER WORKS	19.02.2021 08.03.2021	2366.56 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01662237870 xenwsdnshr@gmail.com	
6	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA, REWARI	ESTIMATE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TOILET ON 2ND FLOOR DIVISION OFFICE BUILDING AT CANAL COLONY, REWARI+2 OTHERS	CLOSING DATE 01.03.2021	18.41 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xenws2rri@gmail.com	
7	IRRIGATION & WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT HARYANA,GURUGRAM	SERVICE PROVIDERS FOR ENGAGING UNSKILLED/ SKILLED WORKMEN ON CONTRACT BASIS FOR, CANAL COLONY & CANAL REST HOUSE GURUGRAM	CLOSING DATE 09.03.2021	50 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	xen-gwsgrg.irr@hry.gov.in	
8	ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING HARYANA PACHKULA	TENDER NOTICES FOR PURCHASE OF INCUBATOR/SETTER AND HATCHER.	19.02.2021 05.03.2021	EMD 10,000/-	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9138245110 dg.ahd@hry.nic.in	
9	FOREST DEPARTMENT PINJORE	CONSTRUCTION OF CHAINLINK FENCING AT SEOMTHI R.F. (KURUKSHETRA) (LABOUR WORK ONLY) UNDER RESEARCH RANGE PINJORE	19.02.2021 04.03.2021	10.38 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	01733230518 dfresearch.pinjore@gmail.com	
10	FOREST DEPARTMENT HISAR	RE TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF 5 NOS. AWC AT VARIOUS VILLAGES IN BLOCK HANSLI DISTT HISAR	19.02.2021 03.03.2021	4.27 LACS	https://etenders.hry.nic.in	9467251500 prexeeng.hsr@hry.nic.in	
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT : www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in							
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GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR	
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER	
JAL SHAKTI DIVISION (PHE) BIJBEHARA	
(e-mail: phebijbehara230@gmail.com Telephone/Fax: 01932-234230)	
E- NOTICE INVITING E-TENDERS	
NIT No:Fresh e-NIT No34/PHED/Bijbehara/ of 2020-21 Dated 17-02-2021	
For & on behalf of the lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of J&K, e-tenders in Two cover system are invited on item rate basis from Registered Contractors registered J&K UT, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:-	
S.No 1 Name of work :- Providing / laying / fitting of pipes for distribution system in various habitations of Brinly incl. completion of balance portion of quarter and fencing around structures WSS. Brinly Batapora	
Advvt. Cost In Lacs :- 32.63, Cost of tender Doc In Rs :- 300, Time for Compl In Days :- 60, Class of Contractor :- AAY/BEE, Head of Account :- NABARD	
S.No 2 Name of work :- Balance portion including providing / laying fitting of pipes for supply mains and distt. System in Bon Tooru and Hard Tooru WSS Hard Tooru	
Advvt. Cost In Lacs :- 43.57, Cost of tender Doc In Rs :- 400, Time for Compl In Days :- 60, Class of Contractor :- AAY/BEE, Head of Account :- MNP Distt. Sector	
S.No 3 Name of work :- Providing / laying / fitting of balance portion of supply mains on RS of K.P road from Bumzoo upto Khanwari Mattan incl shifting of existing connection to new supply mains WSS. Krangsoo	
Advvt. Cost In Lacs :- 60.44, Cost of tender Doc In Rs :- 600, Time for Compl In Days :- 60, Class of Contractor :- AAY, Head of Account :- JKIDFC	
S.No 4 Name of work :- Balance work of providing / laying / fitting of pipe network for WSS. Reshi Mohalla Khandipharie	
Advvt. Cost In Lacs :- 35.79, Cost of tender Doc In Rs :- 300, Time for Compl In Days :- 60, Class of Contractor :- AAY/BEE, Head of Account :- JKIDFC	
S.No 5 Name of work :- Completion of pipe network by way of Providing / laying / fitting for WSS. Prakashpora	
Advvt. Cost In Lacs :- 72.25, Cost of tender Doc In Rs :- 700, Time for Compl In Days :- 60, Class of Contractor :- AAY, Head of Account :- NRDPW	
1. The NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, Bill of Quantities (BOQ), terms & condition of contract can be seen/downloaded from the website www.jktenders.gov.in as per the dates shown below:-	
1. Publishing date of NIT :- 17.02.2021 (10.00 AM)	
2. Download start date :- 17.02.2021 (10.00 AM)	
3. Bid submission start date :- 17.02.2021 (10.00 AM)	
4. Bid submission end date :- 27.02.2021 (02.00 PM)	
5. Bid opening date (Technical Cover) :- 27.02.2021 (03.00 PM)	
6. Bid opening date (Financial Cover) Only for those who qualify 1 st cover :- 01.03.2021 (11.00 AM)	
7. Place for opening of bids and address for communication :- Office Of The Executive Engineer PHE Division Bijbehara (phebijbehara230@gmail.com)	
TERMS AND CONDITIONS:	
1. In case of bid of the lowest bidder is found unbalanced, he has to produce additional performance security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG before fixation of contract as per following break up within four days from the opening of tenders.	
S.No 1. Percentage of unbalanced bid viz advertised cost on account of low rates :- Upto and including 15% below, Additional performance security :- Nil	
S.No 2. Percentage of unbalanced bid viz advertised cost on account of low rates :- Greater than 15% below, Additional performance security :- 3%	
The tenderer should in his own interest inspect and examine the site, its surroundings/topography, nature of ground, climatic conditions, accessibility or other relevant information at his own expenses and responsibility to satisfy himself before tendering for the advertised work. The bidder will have to execute each part of the work i.e. Civil / Electro-Mechanical part under the close supervision of the respective Engineer-In-Charge of Civil & Mechanical wings in-charge of the Scheme.	
If it fails to start the work within 15 days of the issuance of letter of intent or allotment, whichever is earlier, the department shall allot the work to the other willing Lowest bidder like L2, L3, L4 debarring the Contractor for a period of two years for participating in the e-Nit's issued by the kmr. PHE Department Srinagar.	
18.0 Any item of work which is required for satisfactory completion of the scheme / individual activity shall be exclusively responsibility of the contractor and no additional cost shall be paid to the contractor.	
19.0 In case of any disputes/differences, the jurisdiction shall be to the Courts situated in Srinagar only. Supplies, if involved any, will be deducted at prevalent stock rates at the time of tender for such material. We look forward to your active participation.	
For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor UT of Jammu & Kashmir	
No. DIPK-13476/20 Dated: 20-02-2021	Sd/- Executive Engineer, (JSD) PHE Div, Bijbehara

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

for bird flu testing, he added.

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

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

5 killed in Bihar in truck-auto collision

IANS ■ KATIHAR (BIHAR)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Car-bus collision leaves 5 dead

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

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

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

The local villagers managed to rush the victims to a

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

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

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

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

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

IANS

ELGAR PARISHAD-BHIMA KOREGAON CASE

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

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

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

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

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

Kashmir.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Talking to a local news agency

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

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

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

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

Trains back on track in J&K after 11 months

PNS ■ JAMMU

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

These train services remained suspended during covid-19 pandemic.

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BMC to lodge FIRs for home quarantine violation

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Covid rebound: K'taka closes borders with Kerala again

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

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

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

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

Health and police personnel are on duty at the four borders, viz. Talapady in Mangalore taluk, Saradka in Bantwal,

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

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

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



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

FIR against NCLT's member on sexual abuse charges

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

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

slaking always," said the lawyer who is working as a research associate on a contractual basis with the NCL. "The attitude of HC Suri was not proper towards me. He used to call me to his chamber when no one was around and stalked me whenever he got an opportunity," said the woman lawyer accusing Suri of demanding sexual favours. The woman lawyer has forwarded her complaint to Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Corporate Affairs and NCLT's headquarters in Delhi. Kolkata Police is expected to summon Suri soon. Currently, FIR is charged under sections of IPC 354A and 354 D which are cognizable and non-bailable offences. PNS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

COVID returns?

Contrary to expectations, active cases are on the rise, especially in Kerala and Maharashtra

The new year had brought relief to India from the pandemic and, as late as February 11, the country had been consistently following a declining slope of COVID-19 active cases with the load dropping to 1.41 lakh and 33 States and Union Territories reporting less than 5,000 active cases. This, combined with the world's largest vaccination drive in the country, had given people the hope that we would soon be seeing the end of the outbreak that had crippled our ailing economy and resulted in major salary cuts, job and business losses and long periods of isolation and mental distress for millions of Indians. However, last week seems to have dashed all hopes of recovery from the contagion as we are seeing a surge in Coronavirus cases again.



India has reported close to 87,000 infections in the last seven days, with the highest addition on Sunday when the country saw 14,264 fresh cases within a span of 24 hours. More worryingly, India now has all three Coronavirus variants that have caused a massive resurgence of cases globally, i.e. B.1.1.7 that was first discovered in the UK, B.1.351 which is dominant in South Africa and P1 from Brazil. These have a unique collection of mutations, which make them spread more readily or cheat vaccine immunity. Even though there has been a spike in daily cases in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and

Maharashtra are the major worrying factors as they are bearing the brunt of the new strains, with over 74 per cent of the nation's active cases in the two States.

While in the last month, the average weekly cases in Kerala have fluctuated between 34,800 and 42,000, weekly positivity in the State has ranged from 13.9 per cent to 8.9 per cent. In Maharashtra, too, in the last four weeks the cases have increased from 18,200 to 21,300 and weekly positivity has increased from 4.7 per cent to eight per cent. The areas of concern are mainly in suburban Mumbai where the weekly cases have risen by 19 per cent. In Nagpur, Amravati, Nashik, Akola and Yavatmal, the weekly cases have increased by 33 per cent, 47 per cent, 23 per cent, 55 per cent and 48 per cent, respectively. This has led to experts warning that the new strains could be highly transmissible and dangerous and could even cause re-infections in people who have developed antibodies to the virus. In fact, AIIMS Director Randeep Guleria has warned that herd immunity is a "myth" in the country because at least 80 per cent people need to have antibodies for the whole of the population to be protected. So what it effectively means for a poor country like ours, which is highly populated and where a large part of the populace does not have medical insurance, is that we cannot let our guard down till we have seen the last of this pandemic. Either we follow the rules or suffer yet another surge of the dreaded pandemic. The choice is ours.

PICTALK



A fisherman fishes through a hole in frozen Walden Pond in Massachusetts

AP

Harvesting votes

The BJP and the AAP, besides other satraps, are wooing Jat farmers in western UP

It's obvious for a party that has its origins in a mass movement to use a similar opportunity for expanding its base. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), which rules the roost in Delhi, is now envisaging prop roots in the heartland of western Uttar Pradesh (UP), also called Jatland, riding on its support for the farmers' agitation. However, the road to power in the politically sensitive State is no cakewalk as, unlike in Delhi, here religion, regional, caste and traditional loyalties matter in elections. These factors play a decisive role at the hustings. Besides, if the anti-incumbency factor comes



into play in next year's Assembly elections, regional parties rather than the AAP are more likely to harvest it. Furthermore, any possible expansion of the party will be at the cost of satraps like the Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), SP and BSP who count on their traditional vote banks. These regional players will never allow an "outsider" to dent their vote banks. Even if the AAP forges an alliance with these parties, they will most likely not offer it the "winnable" seats, certainly not at the expense of their vote bank.

Meanwhile, what leaves the BJP concerned after the Red Fort siege on Republic Day is that the agitation focus has shifted from Punjab's growers to the Jat cultivators of western UP and Haryana. The BJP well understands that if the strong Jat community decides not to favour the party in the UP Assembly polls, its chances of retaining power would be next to impossible. It is for this reason that the BJP leaders, including Union Minister Sanjeev Balyan and many Ministers in the Yogi Adityanath Government, are wooing influential *khap* leaders. They will definitely leave no stone unturned to make the situation favourable for the party. On the other hand, AAP convener and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal recently met farm leaders over lunch to discuss the ongoing protest against the Centre's farm laws. He will also address a Kisan *Mahapanchayat* in Meerut on February 28 to show solidarity with the farmers. The AAP has already revealed its ambition by announcing that in the next two years, it will contest elections in six States including UP and Uttarakhand. Well, there is no harm in trying one's luck but whether the party is able to leave any real imprint or would end up as an "also-ran", only time will tell. As of now, its prospects don't seem too promising, at least not in UP.

Questioning pullback from Afghanistan

Personal experience should guide Biden while deciding on US troop withdrawal commitments and imperatives in Afghanistan

On January 3, 1973, 30-year-old Joe Biden got elected for the first time to the United States (US) Senate. On January 27, 1973, just 24 days later, a face-saving "Agreement on Ending the War and restoring Peace in Vietnam" was signed with full knowledge among the belligerent parties of what was inevitable. This sham "peace accord" enabled the battle-weary US troops to withdraw and the last troops were airlifted on April 30, 1975 — later that day, the US ally in southern Vietnam capitulated and its leader Thieu was left fuming: "The US did not keep its promise to help us fight for freedom. It was in the same fight that the US lost 50,000 of its young men." Then US President Gerald Ford argued about opening the doors to South Vietnamese who had fought on the US side. However, the young Biden insisted that the US had 'no obligation, moral or otherwise, to evacuate foreign nationals'. Biden's youthful bravado aside, the US troops' withdrawal from the unpopular war did not end as scripted in the purported "peace accord".

In 1995, the US troops escorted out the final remnant of the UN peacekeeping force from Somalia even as local militiamen were firing upon the withdrawing force. Banalities from the UN Secretary General, that efforts to bring peace and aid to Somalia would continue, flew in the face of the ground reality of advancing militias. Over 100 UN peacekeepers and 42 US troops had died before the final withdrawal. Importantly, the nemesis of the UN/US force i.e. ruthless warlord General Aidid was still alive, and gaining ground. Expectedly, General Aidid soon declared himself the President of Somalia and a full-fledged civil war broke out. By now, Biden was no longer a wet-behind-the-ears Senator and had already run for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination. Also, as a longtime member of the US Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, the immediate impact of troop withdrawal from Somalia would not have been lost on Biden.

Cut to 2011. By now the Vice-



President, Biden was personally entrusted the task of yet another troop pullout, this time from Iraq (Biden had earlier voted for authorising military force in 2002, then as the Chairman of Senate Committee on Foreign Relations). This withdrawal of 1,50,000 troops when the "enemy" was clearly not defeated, was to prove fatal. It created a sudden vacuum and the Al-Qaida metastasized into ISIS and, within a couple of months, the "caliphate" had emerged over most of the Syrian-Iraqi swathes. A new dimension of global terror, regional upheaval and religious extremism was born — all fingers pointed towards a premature withdrawal of US troops, among other factors. Importantly, Biden had then personally punted on one of the most controversial, sectarian and irresponsible locals, Nouri al-Maliki, to manage the show in the absence of US troops. The troops had to return to Iraq in 2014 to undo the damage of what was clearly a wrong decision to withdraw. Around the same time, Biden was pushing hard for a similar scale-down of the US troops in Afghanistan with a limited mandate of counterterrorism, like proposed in Iraq — however, President

“BIDEN MUST BE GUIDED BY HIS MEMORY AND EXPERIENCES OF THE EARLIER WITHDRAWALS AND THE SUBSEQUENT COSTS TO THE US. ITS GLOBAL INTERVENTIONS HAVE RARELY SUCCEEDED, AND LEAVING MID-COURSE HAS WORSENED SITUATIONS

Barack Obama heeded the counsel of his Generals, who suggested otherwise.

In 2021, President Biden has inherited Donald Trump's decisions for complete withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan and Somalia where, yet again, the "enemy" in the form of Taliban (and affiliates) and Al-Shabab, respectively, is waiting menacingly. Somalia withdrawal has already happened and the ravaged territory is again left precariously poised. Afghanistan as the hub of regional/global terror has an altogether different portent at stake. Clearly the deadline for complete withdrawal of the troops by May 1, 2021, is staring in the face for the force of about 2,500 troops (down from 1,00,000 in 2011) and the conflated "peace agreement" with the Taliban that underwrites such a withdrawal, remains routinely and supremely violated. The surge of marauding Taliban towards an embattled Kabul continues and herein to assume that 2,500 US troops would be able to withstand pressures that a one-time composition of 1,00,000 could not — let alone the situation when even this miniscule element departs as planned — is disastrous.

The practical logic of "counterterrorism level" pres-

ence does not hold good, as vetted by history. Blind adherence to commitments without assuming inevitabilities will deligitimise the cost in terms of lives lost, resources and rationales invested in the last 20 years, besides affording a terror-based sovereign. A recent bipartisan US Congress-appointed Afghan Study Group has concluded a damning assessment of the Taliban's own commitments towards conditionalities so far, and forewarned of impending bloody civil war, therefore suggesting the abandonment/extension of the May 1 timeline. Biden must be guided by his memory and experiences of the earlier US withdrawals and the subsequent costs to the US. Its global interventions have rarely succeeded, however, leaving mid-course has always made situations worse. Timing is everything and, as things stand in Afghanistan, currently it looks ominous. Biden must rethink withdrawal commitments and imperatives in Afghanistan — personal experience should advise him so.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INVOLVE PRIVATE PLAYERS IN VACCINATION

Sir—It is worrying that the number of COVID-19 infection cases is again on the rise and States like Maharashtra and Kerala are the worst affected. With new mutants of the deadly virus invading India, it seems that our vaccination programme will fall flat as against these new strains there are no vaccines developed yet and if it starts to rapidly spread, then we will be facing a crisis more devastating than the first wave of infection.

For rapid vaccination, the Government must involve private players, else the spread of infection will supersede the rate of vaccination and recoveries. The Government should ask the private companies to divert their funds under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) for the cause. Rapid and mass vaccination is not possible without private participation.

Further, instead of developing different vaccines for different mutations, the scientists must try to develop a single vaccine which should work against all the present strains and also future possible mutants. Also, all States must cooperate in terms of logistics and resource sharing in fighting the pandemic. All the States who are failing to control the spread of the pandemic must be penalised heavily and, if required, the Centre should impose President's Rule citing extraordinary situation or health emergency. On the other hand, people must take all necessary precautions like wearing of masks, sanitising their hands, maintaining social distancing to keep the infection at bay. We cannot act carelessly at this juncture, it's a question of life and death.

M Raghuraman | Mumbai

SHAME ON CHINA AND THE PLA

Sir —This refers to the editorial 'Chinese checkers' (February 20). Finally, the Xi Jinping-led Chinese administration admitted the loss of four soldiers during the Galwan Valley faceoff with India in June last year. It is a matter of shame for China that it took the PLA eight months to recognise the demise of its soldiers and that must have sent an indication down to its

Govt has failed to control fuel prices



The sky-rocketing prices of petrol and diesel are also driving up the prices of essential commodities — as a consequential effect. The common man, already battered by the adverse effects of COVID-19 pandemic and stringent lockdown, has been put into unprecedented hardships by this price rise. The rising prices of commodities on the one hand and loss of income on the other, is a double whammy that

the common man is unable to cope with.

Even if we consider the previous Governments' failure to reduce the dependence on the import of crude oil, what's about the huge tax imposed by both Centre and State Governments at present? While the Centre claims the fuel prices are deregulated, but it is only in theory.

The oil price decontrol is a one-way street in India — when global prices go up, it is passed on to the consumer, who has to cough up more for every litre of fuel consumed. But when the reverse happens and prices go down, the Government — almost by default — slaps fresh taxes to ensure that it rakes in extra revenues, even as the consumer, who should have ideally benefited by way of lower pump prices, is short-changed and forced to either pay what he's already paying, or even more. The key beneficiary in this subversion of price decontrol is the Government. The consumer is a clear loser.

N Sadhasiva Reddy | Bengaluru

ranks that the Chinese Army does not care for the martyrdom of its soldiers, unlike India which honours its martyrs.

These exchanges and clashes at the friction points are more of a perception battle rather than being a stage for "war", and it is more prudent to accept and lead swiftly with changing scenarios instead of hiding the facts, ignoring the truths and bearing the brunt later.

Such instances by the Army and administration might lower the morale of soldiers, which is evident on the Chinese side, but India is leading with high emotional quotient and the morale of our Army personnel is high as ever. It was also evident during the recent disengagement dialogue. The morale of our soldiers is much higher than that of their Chinese counterparts.

Nischai Vats | Sultanpur

ALL MUST WALK FOR HEALTH

Sir —It is not only for the elders to jog and walk but even youngsters and people of

middle age should walk. It helps in maintaining the cholesterol level and burning extra body fat. However, it is seen that many people even take doctors' advice for granted and do nothing to control their blood pressure and sugar levels except taking medicines.

Lifestyle diseases are very common these days and lakhs of people die because of it. The urban lifestyle and extreme work pressure has given us a convenient life but has taken a toll on our health.

The cause of concern is that lifestyle diseases are irreversible and if a person falls prey to these, s/he can lead a healthy life only by taking precaution and medicines. While COVID-19 has devastated our lives, it was witnessed that those having co-morbidities were more vulnerable. Lifestyle diseases coupled with COVID are dangerous.

N Soumik | Bhubaneswar

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

We are correcting the faults of the previous regimes. If the policy is accurate, destiny would be perfect. Connectivity, health, education and infrastructure developments were ignored by the previous Governments.

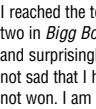


Prime Minister
— Narendra Modi



On February 26, 117,000 doses of Pfizer vaccines will arrive in the country and the vaccines will be administered to medical staff treating Coronavirus patients starting February 27.

South Korea PM
— Chung Sye-kyun



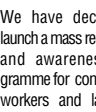
I reached the top two in *Bigg Boss* and surprisingly I am not sad that I have not won. I am more than happy that I have played the game gracefully.

Singer
— Rahul Vaidia



Life has always thrown challenges. Haryana has three spinners who have already played for India. I always knew that if I get an opportunity, I must make it count.

Cricketer
— Rahul Tewatia



We have decided to launch a mass registration and awareness programme for construction workers and labourers so that they can avail welfare schemes.

Delhi Deputy CM
— Manish Sisodia



FIRST COLUMN

MUST REDUCE MONEY POWER IN POLITICS

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



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Time for Govt to make a clear-cut choice

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



UTTAM GUPTA

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Likewise, States want to pay less on power subsidy even as they order a big slice of it to be supplied at low tariff or even free to farmers — with a discount. This would lead to cost.

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

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

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

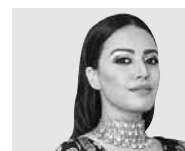
The Government needs to make a clear-cut choice. If it feels that high price to gas producers is the only way to make them deliver more supplies, then it should remove all controls on fertilisers, power and so on and let them adjust as per market forces. If it can't, it should regulate gas prices and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

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

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

—ACTOR

KANGANA RANAUT



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

—ACTOR

SWARA BHASKER

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

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

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

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



ASHUTOSH KARNATAK

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

increased social responsibility.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

US President Joe Biden

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ PORT LOUIS

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

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

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

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

"We have the common ambition and responsibility of

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

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

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

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

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

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

olution of disputes," Jugnauth said.

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

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

In 2017, the four countries gave shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the "Quad" or the Quadrilateral coalition to counter China's aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region.

"We have converging views on the need to work together to strengthen the rules-based international order, global governance and institutions including those of the United Nations system," Jugnauth said.

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

Jaishankar meets Mauritius Foreign Minister, reviews 'excellent' bilateral relations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Italian ambassador among 3 killed in attack in Congo

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But he said after talks Monday with German President Frank-

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dubai's Emirates seeks key role in global vaccine delivery

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
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 Website:-www.scesupaul.org and Email id: supaulcollege@gmail.com

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

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

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

Tender Program:

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

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

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

Principal
Supaul College of Engineering, Supaul

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

किसी भी तरह आपस की जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु आपस में मिलने की आवश्यकता नहीं है। 1070 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

Protests swell after Myanmar junta raises specter of force

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thousands evacuated amid floods in Indonesia's West Java

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

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

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

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

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

Libya: Over 150 migrants freed in raid on traffickers

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

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

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

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

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

NOTICE
EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

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

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

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

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

Details of Eol:

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

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

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

Janasanyog/CF/5229/20

SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY

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

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

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

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

Investors lose ₹3.7 L cr as markets tank



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Spiralling lower for the fifth straight session, the Sensex

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

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

Biswas further said any

Global shares mostly lower as investors wary over stimulus

AP ■ TOKYO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

reliant regional economies.

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

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

Japan began administering vaccines for COVID-19 last week.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

The agency in a report

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

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

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

Its rated CV and SME loan pools have also shown a steady recovery

in collections till December 2020 on account of deployment

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

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

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

CCI approves stake purchase by Panatone Fininvest in Tata Comm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

HDFC Securities Senior

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

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

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

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

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

ANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



Naveen Kumar

General Public is hereby informed that one boy **Naveen Kumar, S/o: Baccha Singh, R/o: A-45, Sunday Bazar Road, Chander Vihar, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **26.12.2020** from the area of P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 50-A dated 27.12.2020** has been registered at P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi. The description of the missing/

kidnapped boy is as under: **Age: 23 years, Height: 5'7", Face: Round, Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: Green colour shirt, blue colour jeans and white colour shoes in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.

Website: http://cbi.nic.in
E-mail Id - cbi@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**
DP/632/OD/2021 **Ph.:011-25946710, 7065036129**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



SAHIL

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

Age: 23 Years, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Wearing: Dark green colour jacket - Dark Grey colour lower and white colour shoes in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this Missing/ Kidnapped boy, may inform SHO, Nihal Vihar, Delhi at E-mail Id – **cbi@cbi.gov.in** or Website: **http://cbi.nic.in**

SHO
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639 **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**
Ph. No. 011-25946700, 25946710 **DP/632/OD/2021**

SEARCH FOR MISSING



RAM KISHAN

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

Age: 24 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Built: Medium, Wearing: Blue & white colour T-shirt and pink colour payjama & black colour shoes in feet.

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

SHO
Phone: 011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Vijay Vihar, Delhi**
Fax No. 011-24368639 **Rohini Distt., Delhi**
DP/680/RD/2021 **Ph. No. 011-27061294, 27061295**

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



BALJEET SINGH

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

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the missing/kidnapped person but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped person please inform the undersigned.

Web-site: http://cbi.nic.in
E-Mail ID: cbi@cbi.gov.in **SHO**
Fax: 011-23011334 **P.S. Nihal Vihar, Delhi**
DP/610/OD/2021 **Ph.: 011-25946700, 25946710**

Petrol, diesel rates unchanged for 2nd consecutive day

ANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Known to all that my client Shubham Shukla is missing Plot No. 45, Western Area 72sq. yds., Mustil No. 31, Killa No. 21/2/2, Mustil No. 33, Killa No. 1/4, 1/3, 1/1, Ballabgarh, Gurgaon, Haryana. Finance Ltd. Shubham Shukla has lost original sale deed executed by Satish Chand in favour of Parash Shukla dated 26.02.2006. Situated at Village- Nasirpur, in the Colony known as Mahavir Enclave, Gali No. 05, New Delhi. vide Sale Deed dated 12/12/2019 duly registered with the Sub-Registrar, Delhi. On Document No. 10199, Book No. 1, Volume No. 10233, Page No. 70-75, on 17/12/2019. Now, Mr. Gautam Chugh, Mr. Hirdesh Kumar Chugh & Mr. Chaman Lal Goyal are the owners of 'Property No. R2-D-1252, land area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., situated at Village-Kekrola, Colony-Patel Garden, New Delhi. Vide Sale Deed dated 27.03.2006 (Doc. No. 4149), Mr. Kuldeep Kumar had mislaid 1. Original GPA dated 13.09.1983, ATS & Will executed by Mr. Dooji Same in favour of Mrs. Rajisha Begum, 2. Original GPA, ATS dated 28.01.1985 & Will executed by Mrs. Rajisha Begum in favour of Mr. Bahadur Chand, 3. Original GPA, ATS & Will dated 05.08.1994 executed by Mr. Bahadur Chand in favour of Mr. Nand Kishore, 4. Original Regd. GPA dated 14.06.2002, ATS & Will executed by Mr. Nand Kishore in favour of Mrs. Bimla Devi, 5. Original Sale Deed dated 01.02.2006 executed by Mrs. Bimla Devi in favour of Mrs. Reetu Kool, (Doc. No. 1484, SRC-IX), Anyone who find the above said documents shall handover the same to the Manager of Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. having its office at 2nd & 3rd Floor, WZ 115-A, Mesakoti Garden, Near Subhash Nagar Metro Station, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018.

Mr. Kuldeep Kumar is Selling the above said property to Mr. Kuldeep Singh & Mrs. Rekha who are mortgaging the property with Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. In case anyone has objection regarding mortgage of the said property, the same may be raised within 07 days of this publication to Mr. Munesh Dhanraj Mr. Sudhir Jain (Advocates), Law Veritas, Unit no 405, 4th Floor, GD-ITL, Northex Tower, (A-09), Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi-110034 or contact at 9066707172/9818228636 (M).

For AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION (Ch. No. 760, Dewala Court, Sector-10, Dewala, New Delhi-75) Mr.-9899013918

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

Shanker Chhabra (Advocate) M: 986815 5555

Public Notice

This is to inform general public that Mr. Gautam Chugh, Mr. Hirdesh Kumar Chugh & Mr. Chaman Lal Goyal are the owners of 'Property No. R2-D-1252, land area measuring 100 Sq. Yds., situated at Village-Kekrola, Colony-Patel Garden, New Delhi. Vide Sale Deed dated 27.03.2006 (Doc. No. 4149), Mr. Kuldeep Kumar had mislaid 1. Original GPA dated 13.09.1983, ATS & Will executed by Mr. Dooji Same in favour of Mrs. Rajisha Begum, 2. Original GPA, ATS dated 28.01.1985 & Will executed by Mrs. Rajisha Begum in favour of Mr. Bahadur Chand, 3. Original GPA, ATS & Will dated 05.08.1994 executed by Mr. Bahadur Chand in favour of Mr. Nand Kishore, 4. Original Regd. GPA dated 14.06.2002, ATS & Will executed by Mr. Nand Kishore in favour of Mrs. Bimla Devi, 5. Original Sale Deed dated 01.02.2006 executed by Mrs. Bimla Devi in favour of Mrs. Reetu Kool, (Doc. No. 1484, SRC-IX), Anyone who find the above said documents shall handover the same to the Manager of Fullerton India Home Finance Co. Ltd. having its office at 2nd & 3rd Floor, WZ 115-A, Mesakoti Garden, Near Subhash Nagar Metro Station, Tilak Nagar, New Delhi-110018.

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For AD REM LEGAL SOLUTION (Ch. No. 760, Dewala Court, Sector-10, Dewala, New Delhi-75) Mr.-9899013918

INBRIEF

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

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

NTPC BAGS 4 AWARDS AT PRSI NATIONAL AWARDS 2020

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

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

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

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

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

ADVANCE SALARY SERVICE MOBILE APP FOR FINANCIALLY STRESSED EMPLOYEES

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Surender Dutt Sharma is owner of MIG Flat No. DA/403, Second Floor, Pocket -A, Sector-D, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, the said property by virtue of sale deed dated 28.02.2006, Registration No. 3557, executed by Mrs. Preeti Puri. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner want to take Loan from ICICI Bank Ltd. against the said property, if anybody has any objection/s upon the said sale deed / said property and its ownership / Mortgage, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants) 205, 2nd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, West Nager, N. Delhi-15 Ph. 11-41192738, kumarassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Dr. Soheila Mostafavi Daughter of Javed Mostafavi is applying to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Ministry of Home Affairs for naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why naturalization should not be granted should send a written signed statement of the facts to the said Secretary.

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI

4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
OA No. 368/2019 **Date: 18.12.2020**
CORPORATION BANK **VERSUS** **APPLICANT**
M/S BALAJI FURNITURE

DOCYARD

DR ANIL RAHEJA

Orthopedic Expert

APOLLO SPECTRA
KAROL BAGH, NEW DELHI



Stand up for your back



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

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

Avoid hunching while working on the computer as it can raise the risk of neck and back pain. Try to adjust your monitor at eye level. Use appropriate chairs and don't bend your knees. Keep standing in between your work

computer as it can raise your risk of neck and back pain. Try to adjust your monitor at eye level. Use appropriate chairs and don't bend your knees. Keep standing in between your work. Avoid tucking your phone between your ears. You can use headphones instead or even a speakerphone and prevent back and neck pain.

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

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

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

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

WARMFOODS

MILLET: Millets boast of high fibre, protein and essential Vitamins. They are also rich in antioxidants which helps to protect your body from harmful oxidative stress.

They may also help in rapid wound healing, skin protection and also contain anti-inflammatory properties.

Millet contains soluble fiber, which produces a viscous substance in your gut. In turn, this traps fats and helps reduce cholesterol levels. It also helps lower blood sugar levels. Moreover, millet is a gluten-free grain, making it a viable choice for people with celiac disease or those following a gluten-free diet. This and much more makes millet a super-food and if added in diet it can bless you with excellent health benefits. Certain studies have also found that millet can also help boost the body's metabolism.



IT'S A SORE ISSUE

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

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

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

Other symptoms of mouth cancer include:

- Persistent and unexplained lumps in the mouth or the neck
- Unexplained loose teeth or sockets
- Unexplained, persistent numbness on the tongue or lip

- White or red patches on the lining of the mouth or tongue
- Changes in speech, such as a lisping

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

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

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

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

Preventing and treating mouth cancer

Cancer of oral cavity (lips, tongue, buccal mucosa,

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

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

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

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

HEALTH & HYGIENE ABOVE ALL

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

MANISH AGGARWAL



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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is Director, Bilkano

DadiKaKehna

Bug bites are irritating, especially because of the continuous itching.

ROSHANI DEVI shares easy home remedies that can help beat the itch at the comfort of your home



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

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

Crushed ice. Use a cold pack or a bag filled with

crushed ice to relieve the itching caused by a mosquito bite.

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

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

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

'Prevention & diagnosis are key'

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

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

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

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

Sedentary lifestyle, he says, is a type of lifestyle that doesn't involve physical activity. A person involved in this is either always sitting around or lying down. Because of the pandemic, the shift of all day-to-day activities online and work from home, this has

been the lifestyle of most people. This has reduced the day-to-day mobility. Before the pandemic, even if people did not designate time to physical exercise, they still moved around. "Sedentary lifestyle is a cause for weight gain, blood pressure changes, high sugar, deep vein thrombosis and various other things which are risk factors for several diseases," Malik says.

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

The clots form in the

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

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

INBRIEF

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

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

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



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

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

PREPPING FOR THE FUTURE

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

ful in the workplace. Along with the world, the skills being taught in schools must also be upgraded to suit students in the future. No longer can we rely on the educational tools of the past to equip our students for the unknown

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

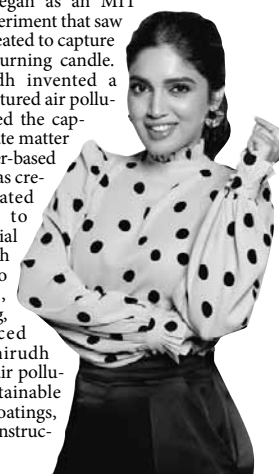
Rebel for life

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

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

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

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



A thin line

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

—IANS

TREND TOOL

Itchy feet get going

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



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

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

Health and safety emerge as top priority.

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

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

Travel becoming increasingly sustainable.

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

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

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

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

Travel will come back to connect people.

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

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

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

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

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

Local recommendations and social media will inspire travel.

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRENDBLAZER



ANEK TO RELEASE ON SEPTEMBER 17

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

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

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

fairtalk

RUBINA DILAİK



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

dailytalk

ARMAAN MALİK



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

LOUISE REGRETS NOT SAVING HER MARRIAGE

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

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



Looking at bigger picture rotation policy has merit: Anderson



PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WTC win will be same as World Cup: Ishant



PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

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

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

So which captain understood him the best in all these

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

scene, Ishant picked Jasprit Bumrah.

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

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

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

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

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

Fit again Umesh added to squad

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

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

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

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

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

Stokes has ability to put bowlers on back foot: Thorpe

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

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

Stokes was dismissed thrice by Ashwin in the first two Tests in Chennai. The power-hitter was, in fact, stifled quite remarkably by the local favourite in the second game.

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

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



Thorpe also hinted that all players including Zak Crawley, who was ruled out of the first Two tests due to an injury, are available for selection.

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

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

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

"They (India) don't have a huge database of pink ball cricket in India, maybe the second one, so looking forward to it, it is a fantastic stadium. We have prepared as well as we can," he added.

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

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

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

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

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



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

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

"How the wicket is here and how they (England) play, obviously under lights the ball swings, but you will have to see the dew factor, so there will be many things, and you cannot straightaway say that whether fast bowlers will remain in the game or the spinners."

"I feel the game will change session wise and each bowler will have to take responsibility

session wise, who knows the ball might turn in the beginning here."

"Who knows if the spinners come to play in first two sessions, but under lights, when there is dew, the ball does not swing, but skids and comes onto the bat."

"Then, spinners are not in the game and fast bowlers are, so it depends on the situation and how the ball and wicket is behaving at that time," he said.

The veteran pacer backed the team's batsmen to come good, saying they are capable of dealing with the conditions.

"I am sure our batsmen are really capable enough to tackle all those things, how they need to go and build their innings, to go on through the Test match," he added.

India-SA series likely from March 7

NEW DELHI: The planned eight-match series between India and South Africa women is likely to be held from March 7, which will mark the return of the home team to competitive cricket after almost 12 months.

The series, comprising five T20Is and three ODIs, is likely to be held in either Lucknow or Kanpur in a bio-bubble, a BCCI official said on Monday. A 22-member Indian team has been picked for the contest.

With the fixtures of the series yet to be announced, a Cricket South Africa (CSA) source confirmed that their team is set to travel to India this week. "The Covid tests have been done, the team is ready to leave anytime," the source said.

Both teams will have to undergo a six-day quarantine in which means they will get a week of training before the series opener.

South Africa played recently but India have not played since the T20 World Cup in March last year due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Deadly Devon

Conway's third nineties score in as many innings helps Black Caps beat Australia by 53 runs

AFP ■ CHRISTCHURCH

A Devon Conway batting masterclass inspired New Zealand to a 53-run win over Australia in the opening T20 International in Christchurch on Monday.

Conway smashed an unbeaten 99 off 59 balls as the Black Caps overcame a shaky start to finish on 184/5 after losing the toss and being put in to bat.

In reply, the tourists were all out for 131 after 17.3 overs, with Black Caps spinner Ish Sodhi taking 4/28 to give the hosts an early edge in the five-match series.

Jonathan Richardson, fresh from signing a multi-million dollar Indian Premier League contract,

was the pick of the Australian bowlers, taking 2/31.

But the tourists could not dislodge Conway, whose 59-ball knock included 10 fours and three sixes, helping the Black Caps bounce back.

Conway said he was "pretty chuffed" with his career-best effort, even though he was stranded just short of a century after failing to take two runs off the final ball.

The frustrated Australians then suffered a horror show early in their innings, as seamers Tim Southee and Trent Boult tore through the top order.

Luckless debutant Josh Philippe departed for two after sending a top-edge skyward.

But old campaigners such as skipper Aaron Finch and Glenn Maxwell also failed to deal with the swinging ball and the tourists were soon 19/4.

Mitch Marsh top-scored with 45 and Ashton Agar contributed 23 a string of batting failures gave New Zealand a comfortable win.

Sreesanth's fifer keeps Kerala perfect



PTI ■ BENGALURU

On a comeback trail after the end of his spot-fixing ban, pacer Sreesanth on Monday picked up his first five-wicket haul in List A cricket in almost 15 years to help Kerala pull-off a three-wicket win over Uttar Pradesh in the Vijay Hazare Trophy here.

The 37-year-old, who was not short-listed in IPL 2021 auction's final list, returned figures of five for 65 in his first List A game in more than eight years.

Sreesanth, who had returned to competitive cricket last month after his life ban was overturned, opened his account by dismissing opener Abhishek Sharma.

He then returned in the death overs to dismiss UP under 300 with wickets of skipper Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Mohsin Khan, Akshdeep Nath, and Shivam Sharma en route to his only the second five-for of his List-A career.

On his List-A return, the former India pacer, who has played 27 Tests, 53 ODIs

and 10 T20Is, picked up two for 41 against Odisha on Saturday.

In reply, Kerala sealed the chase in 48.5 overs. Robin Uthappa (81 from 55 balls; 8x4, 4x6) and Sachin Baby (76 from 83 balls; 6x4, 1x6) gave the start before Lalaj Saxena (31) and MD Nidheesh (13 not out from six balls; 1x4, 1x6) sealed the chase with seven balls to spare.

This was Kerala's second successive win in Group C but they remained second in table behind Railways who thrashed Odisha by eight wickets at the M Chinnaswamy to be ahead by net run-rate.

Defending champions Karnataka bounced back with a bang after their first-match loss with a 267-run rout of Bihar.

Skipper R Samarth led the charge with an unbeaten 158 from 144 balls (15x4, 1x6), while fellow opener Devdutt Padikkal smashed a 98-ball 97 (8x4, 2x6) in a com-

manding 153-run opening partnership after Bihar opted to bowl at the Just Cricket Academy.

The only blip was youngster Padikkal missing a century by just three runs after being castled by Rahul Kumar as he once again failed to convert his fifty.

After Padikkal's departure, Samarth took charge with Krishnamurthy Siddharth who chipped in with a quickfire 76 (55 balls; 5x4, 4x6) to propel them to a huge 354/3.

In reply, Karnataka dismantled Bihar for 87 runs in just 27.2 overs with opener Sakibul Gani being their top-scorer (37), while eight batsmen failed to reach double digits.

Prasidh Krishna was Karnataka's wrecker-in-chief (4/17) and had fine support from Abhimanyu Mithun and Shreyas Gopal who claimed two each.

Two in two for Gujarat

PTI ■ SURAT

Hosts Gujarat recorded their second successive win after they beat Goa by eight wickets in an Elite Group A game here.

Gujarat had started their campaign with a three-wicket win over Chhattisgarh. Opting to bat at the Lalbhai Contractor Stadium, Goa were bundled out for 159 in 45.4 overs, with Gujarat's slow-left arm spinner Hardik Patel (3/34) doing the bulk of the damage.

Gujarat then chased the target in 27.4 overs with half centuries from Priyank Panchal (57 not out off) and Bhargav Merai (57 off 55 balls).

In the other two league games, Baroda rode on skipper Krunal Pandya's unbeaten 127 to beat Tripura by six wickets, while Hyderabad defeated Chhattisgarh by seven wickets.

HEBBAR'S TON UPSET TN

Indore: Ashwin Hebbar slammed an unbeaten 101 and powered Andhra to a

seven-wicket win over Tamil Nadu in Group B match at the Holkar stadium.

Andhra captain G Hanuma Vihari won the toss and sent Tamil Nadu in to bat and the bowlers did very well to dismiss the opponent for 176 in 41.3 overs.

Left-arm medium-pacer C Stephen (3/46), off-spinner Shoaib Mohammed Khan (3/24) and right-arm medium-pacer Girinath Reddy (2/33) struck at regular intervals to restrict a strong Tamil Nadu batting line-up, led by Dinesh Karthik.

In reply, Hebbar was in cracking form and toyed with the opposition to attack to fashion a comfortable win. He found an able partner in Ricky Bhui (52 not out, 41 balls, 6 fours, 2 sixes) and the duo added 114 runs for the fourth wicket to power Andhra.

In other matches, Jharkhand beat Punjab by 2 runs in a nail-biting encounter, while Madhya Pradesh lose second consecutive game in span on 48 hours after Vidarbha beat them by 4 wickets.

Solskjaer not giving up hope of catching Man City

MANCHESTER: Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is not giving up hope that Manchester United can challenge Manchester City for the Premier League title, despite the scintillating form of the league leaders.

City have soared 10 points clear of their local rivals thanks to an 18-game winning streak in all competitions.

United's own inconsistent form has helped open up the gap, but the Red Devils beat Newcastle 3-1 on Sunday to win for just the second time in six league games.

"We've got to be there just in case," said Ole. "Every time we get three points we've done our job and that's what we've got to do and see what other teams do." Bruno Fernandes and Marcus Rashford were again on target on a night United needed their star men to paper over the cracks of another unconvincing performance.

"We had to find a way to win it in the second-half. The first-half wasn't up to the standard that we wanted," added Ole. "Maybe because of Newcastle, maybe because of what we did in the week. We asked them to go again after a high-intensity game and it took us a half time to get our legs and energy."

A run of two wins in 14 games has left Newcastle just three points clear of the drop zone, but Steve Bruce remains confident his side will survive.

"Fulham have had a good week and won a couple of games, which at the bottom end of the table is big, but there are a few of us: Brighton, Burnley and maybe Crystal Palace looking over their shoulders," said Bruce.

Vaas resigns 3 days after being appointed SL bowling coach

PTI ■ COLOMBO

In a dramatic turn of events, Sri Lankan pace great Chaminda Vaas on Monday resigned as the national team's fast bowling coach due to a pay dispute with his board, barely three days after being appointed to the post.

Vaas resigned just before the team's departure for a tour of the West Indies.

"We could not agree to his terms so he resigned," a senior

Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) official said.

"It is particularly disheartening to note that in an economic climate such as the one facing the entire globe right now, Mr Vaas has made this sudden and irresponsible move on the eve of the team's departure, based on personal monetary gain," SLC said in a statement.

It was only last week that Vaas was appointed to replace

Australian David Sakar following the team's poor show against South Africa and England in the recent times.

Vaas incidentally was to leave for the West Indies with the team on Monday night to play three matches each of the two shorter formats and two Tests.

One of the country's finest pacers, Vaas has also resigned from his position as the SLC Academy coach, a board official added.