





# Internet link to blocks, GPS on priority list

CS sets target to complete works by May

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a significant step towards application of IT in Governance transformations, Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra has put high-speed internet connectivity to blocks and GPs on a priority agenda of the Government.

Reviewing the progress of Bharat Net project in State-level Implementation Committee meeting here on Wednesday Mohapatra said, "In today's context, internet connectivity is a basic requirement for maintaining high growth rate in

rural sector. It will help the process of people's empowerment and capacity building besides adding to quality education and health services.

People can avail various services provided through online mode. GPs can also be connected through video conferencing. The Chief Secretary set the time line for completion of the different phases of work at the ground level. Target was set to complete of the physical work by end of May, 2021.

It was also decided that all Government offices including the schools, medicals, banks and common service centers could access the broad band connectivity. The telemedicine centers and agriculture kiosks would be connected for facilitating healthcare, e-learning and profitable agri-commerce.

Electronics and Telecommunication (E and IT) Secretary Manoj Kumar Mishra said, "With completion of the work, OCAC would be the chief bandwidth provider in remote areas of the State".

The ground level activities have been put on fast track. So far, 3,945 blocks and GPs have been provided the connectivity under Phase-I. The road map for connecting balance blocks and GPs have already been rolled out under Phase-II. The Phase-II work is being executed under the joint collaboration of OCAC, OPTCL and Tarasoft".

"This infrastructure will bring all the GPs within the scope of SWAN network. Its dark fibers can also be hired to the telecom and internet service providers on commercial basis, Mishra added.

# Petrol price hits all-time high in city

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Petrol prices hit a record high in Bhubaneswar on Wednesday after the retailers hiked the rates following the last hike on January 6. Now, the customer has to pay Rs 85.09 for one litre of petrol, an all-time high,

Utkal Petroleum Dealers Association general secretary Sanjay Lath said with the new hike, petrol becomes dearer by 25 paise in the capital city. Similarly with an increase of 27 paise, diesel was priced at Rs 81.29 per litre in Bhubaneswar, added Lath.

The sharp rise in petrol and diesel prices came after the oil marketing companies decided for the hike in the wake of a sudden rise in the global oil prices. However, the latest price hike has triggered

resentment among the consumers. "It seems that fuel prices will touch Rs 100 soon, if the trend continues.

Using public transport during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic is risky. We will have to opt for other conveyance, like ride a bicycle for covering short distances," said a consumer.



Keonjhar gets 1st millet processing unit  
PNS ■ KEONJHAR

The first millet processing unit of Keonjhar district was inaugurated in headquarters town on Wednesday by Collector Ashish Thakare.

The unit has been set up under Odisha Millets Mission supported by District Mineral Foundation and will be managed by Krushna Self Help Group (SHG) under Mission Shakti. "The processing unit has a capacity of cleaning about 2 quintals of millet per hour and can clean over 500 quintals in a month. The unit has been established to ensure supply of clean Ragi under flagship of ICDS Ragi Laddu programme of district administration," said an official.

Technical support to unit is being provided by Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment and Watershed Support Services and Activities Network (WASSAN), district administration, he added.

# Pari case: Accused refuses brain mapping Girl's mother moves SC for CBI probe

PNS ■ NAYAGARH

In the ongoing probe into the case of rape and murder of five-year-old Pari in Nayagarh district, the accused minor Saroj Sethy refused to undergo a brain mapping test after being produced before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) here on Wednesday.

The investigating agency Special Investigation Team (SIT) had produced the 17-year-old boy before JJB seeking permission for conducting his brain mapping test in connection with the sensational case that took place at Jadupur village on July 14. However, Saroj denied to undergo the scientific

examination by the SIT. Earlier on January 8, Saroj had also refused to undergo a narco analysis test in the case sought by the SIT, following which the JJB rejected the SIT's plea for the narco test.

During the course of investigation, SIT chief IPS officer Arun Bothra has revealed that Saroj had put Pari's dead body in a gunny bag and dumped it at a bush near a pond in the village and covered the bag with coconut tree branches. Meanwhile, Pari's mother has filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court seeking a CBI investigation into the case.

Notably, the girl's parents, who had accused one Babuli Nayak of their area of killing their daughter, and claimed that Nayak being an associate of Minister and Nayagarh MLA Arun Sahoo was being shielded by Minister, are not satisfied with the SIT investigation.

# Jaga Mission: Eligible slum families to get houses

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Transform the urban slums to livable habitats with basic roads, electricity, drinking water and community space facilities, directed Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra while reviewing the progress of the grant of land rights to slum dwellers on Wednesday.

Principal Secretary Housing and Urban Development G Mathivathanan outlined the issues for discussion.

Mohapatra directed to provide land rights to all the eligible houses under the Jaga Mission as announced by the Chief Minister. Mathivathanan said the Jaga Mission has been recognised as a Pioneering

Model by the United Nations. It is world's largest slum titling project. The review showed that drone survey and socio-economic survey in 48 municipalities and 61 NACs have been conducted as per the Land Right to Slum Dwellers Act of 2017.

Around 1.65 lakh households have been listed for grant of land rights. Out of them, 60,000 have already been given the Land Right Certificate and the balance about 1.5 lakh have been issues land entitlement letters.

The Chief directed that provisions of the Forest Conservation Act should be adhered to while laying the minimum basic infrastructure in the forest category land within the urban areas.

In Baripada  
Fisheries Officer held taking ₹1.10L bribe



PNS ■ BARIAPADA

Vigilance officials on Tuesday arrested Surendra Ghadei, District Fisheries Officer, Mayurbhanj, for allegedly demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 1.10 lakh. According to reports, official had demanded amount from one Dhurjati Das for issuance of a work order for fish farming in Hatchery Project.

Das lodged a complaint in this regard with anti-corruption agency, following which a trap was laid and Ghadei was caught red-handed by Vigilance officers while accepting illegal gratification from complainant at District Fisheries Office, Baripada.

Grace period for paying MV Tax extended

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In view of difficulties faced by vehicle owners for payment of Motor Vehicle tax due to Covid-19 lockdowns, State Government on Wednesday extended grace period for tax payment till end of February. "The grace period for payment of Motor Vehicle tax/additional tax of those Goods Carriages for quarter January-March, 2021 has been extended upto February 28, 2021," a notification by State Commerce and Transport Department stated today.

Due to lockdown declared by Centre as well as State Government to prevent Coronavirus, vehicle owners are unable to pay Motor Vehicle tax and additional tax for quarter January-March 2021 within grace period prescribed under sub rule-(2) of rule-9 of Odisha Motor Vehicle Taxation Rules, 1976.

# In Bhubaneswar Food, clothes to homeless at roadside banned

Aparajita to continue her Annapurna scheme

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As part of a drive to make the State capital city a beggar-free zone, the Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has banned distribution of foods and clothes to homeless persons at roadsides under its jurisdiction. As per the deci-

sion, nobody can offer free foods and clothes to the poor and homeless at roadsides without permission from the civic body.

Individuals and organisations may distribute free foods and clothes to destitute to the people at shelter homes managed by the BMC after taking permission from it, the BMC said in a notification.

In violation of the order, legal action would be taken against the individuals or organisations, the BMC warned. The civic body clarified that the poor people living at roadsides hesitate to shift to the shelter homes due to free distribution of foods and clothes by some organisations. It results in failure to make the city beggar-free. However,

Bhubaneswar BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi assured hungry and poor people spending nights at roadsides that they would avail food under her Annapurna scheme. "Annapurna Yojana is not free. The foods will be provided at Re 1 under the scheme. As the scheme does not come under the BMC's restriction, the initiative will continue," Sarangi said reacting to the BMC notification.

The Annapurna scheme was launched by Sarangi on January 7 with an aim at making Bhubaneswar as a hunger-free city. It had started in the State capital as a pilot project in December last year. Under the programme, the cooked foods are distributed among hungry people every day.

AIIMS BBSR gets Kayakalp Award again

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Adding another feather to its cap, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar, has once again earned recognition in the country for ensuring cleanliness and providing a safe environment to the patients. The AIIMS Bhubaneswar has won first prize in the Kayakalp awards for cleanliness (2019-20) in B Category and received a cash reward of Rs 2 crore. Union Health Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan presented the award to the institute in a virtual ceremony on Tuesday in New Delhi.

The hospital has been successfully winning award for the past three years. In 2018-19 and 2017-18, it secured second place in B Category with Rs 1-crore prize money.

# Use of Chinese manjha banned in Cuttack

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Cuttack Municipal Corporation (CMC) has banned use of Chinese manjha and glass-embossed strings for flying kites on the occasion of Makar Sankranti on Thursday. "On



the occasion of Makar Sankranti on 14.01.2021, it is hereby ordered that there will be complete ban on use of Chinese manjha, glass embossed strings, which are responsible for injuries and deaths of humans and thousands of birds during flying of kites," an order of the CMC said on Wednesday. The civic body has constituted three teams for supervision of its order.

CHSE declares Instant Exam results

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Council of Higher Secondary, Odisha on Wednesday announced the results of Instant Higher Secondary Examination, 2020 for Arts, Science, Commerce and Vocational streams. In Arts, the pass percentage was 80.84 as a total of 287 out of 355 students cleared the exam. Girls outshone the boys.

In Science, the pass percentage was 62.47 with the number of candidates passing the exam at 526. A total of 842 candidates appeared for exam. In Commerce, pass percentage was 57.55 with 80 out of 139 students passing exam. The numbers of successful girls and boys were 27 and 53, respectively.

# Frequent transfers of DMs hit JSpur dev works

KAHNU NANDA ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

Administrative and developmental works as well as providing good governance to people in Jagatsinghpur district have taken a severe beating due to abrupt transfer of Collectors with brief stints.

From February 2019 to January 2021 as many as four Collectors have assumed office and got transferred subsequently. On January 8, incumbent Collector Saroj Kumar Mishra was transferred to Raygada replaced by new Collector Sangram Keshari Mohapatra who had been earlier transferred from Jagatsinghpur on October 5 before the Tirtol Assembly by-election. It started with the

then Collector Yamini Sarangi. She was shifted from Jagatsinghpur in February 2019 and Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar joined as new Collector subsequently. After conducting successful general elections in 2019 and handling post restoration works of cyclone 'Fani,' Kumar was shifted in June 2019 and Sangram Keshari Mohapatra assumed office.

Mohapatra had settled down and involved himself in welfare works and successfully launched e-governance works in the district. Moreover, he effectively implemented Covid 19 pandemic preventive measures during consecutive lockdowns and unlock 2 in the district. However, following direction from the Election

Commission of India, the State Government transferred Mohapatra after Congress and a few political parties charged him of having bias towards ruling BJD. Besides Mohapatra is a native of Jagatsinghpur. Saroj Kumar Mishra succeeded him on October 5, 2020. He conducted Tirtol bypoll successfully and concentrated in Covid 19 works in the district. His measures had brought down new case of Covid 19 to zero level in district. Strangely, State Government effected a transfer order by which Sangram Mohapatra was shifted back to Jagatsinghpur district again and Mishra was transferred to Raygada. Sources informed that people are now expressing displeasure over State Government's move. As a dis-

trict collector plays a key role in organizing and supervising developmental works and revenue collection, frequent transfers are a bottleneck. A Collector takes a few months to get acquainted with the geographical, social, cultural and economic aspects of district. But a shorter stint always plays the spoilsport, opined the intellectuals here. There are several major works to be effective-

ly handled in Jagatsinghpur like Covid 19 vaccination drive, reopening of schools and colleges, reopening of religious places, paddy procurement from farmers, electoral roll correction and strict implementation of Covid 19 guidelines to prevent pandemic. If present trend continues leading to frequent transfer of district Collector, then it may affect works, sources apprehended.



# HITTING THE BULL'S EYE Highly effective, safe Indian vaccine be availed by all



BISWARAJ PATNAIK

The coronavirus vaccine developed by the Oxford University-AstraZeneca and being mass-produced by the Serum Institute of India (SII), the world's biggest producer of vaccines, is just too good. 'Covishield' is the local name.

Experts have dubbed it as India's best bet against the pandemic that has shaken up the world like never before within a single year. Quite a few lifesaving vaccines have meanwhile come up. After rigorous

scrutiny for efficacy and safety, they are being administered to people. In the US, the Pfizer vaccine is making waves as very effective, but it needs to be stored in extreme freezing conditions - as low as -80 degrees Celsius.

That poses enormous logistics problems as maintaining the required cold chain between the manufacturing point and the end-user in a remote hinterland of India is just not practicable. But Covishield requires only ordinary domestic fridge temperatures between 2 and 8 degrees Celsius to remain perfectly efficacious. Hence, the Indian vaccine is best suited for Indians.

Some adversaries, without head on shoulders, have in a hidden manner screamed 'Covishield causes reactions,' which is plain stupid. A stray recipient with unusual health issues may have shown mild symptoms. Such ordinary things occur in a number of medications, which are invari-

ably nonlethal. Besides, one has to choose between the 'devil' and the 'shallow sea.' Covid, the devil has had the best of times pounding mankind for over a full year. The RNA-controlled flu virus has killed more people by panic than health problems. Undoubtedly, the 'novel corona' is very infective, but not so deadly as the 'severely acute respiratory syndrome' virus that had appeared way back in 2002.

The world has been shrinking much faster now due to technological advances bringing everyone together everywhere, resulting in quick disease spread across a vast geographical region in such a short period as the medical experts would fail to even recognise the scourge having turned into a pandemic.

India runs some of the largest immunisation programmes in the world - vaccinating more than 26 million newborns and 29 million pregnant women. The highly tested mechanisms are now being

strengthened even more to effectively cater to the country's hugely diverse population. The Covid-19 vaccine is now absolutely ready to be pushed into human systems.

All standard safety and efficacy factors have been assessed thoroughly and found to be very good. There is already a stockpile of around 50 million dosages of the vaccine. Production will rise to 100 million dosages per month by March this year.

The selling price as declared by the manufacturers is under 1000 rupees for a complete dose administered in two phases. Big news is that the government of India is making available the jab for free to all Indians.

The Covishield is based on a weakened version of a common cold virus (adenovirus) in chimpanzees which has been genetically changed to stop Covid-19 replicating in humans. It delivers genetic cargo into cells, giving them instructions how to fight

SARS-CoV-2. Whereas the 'difficult to handle' Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna vaccines use a new technology which packs messenger RNA (mRNA) inside tiny fat droplets to instruct cells to make the spike protein. The Government has identified high-risk groups to be vaccinated on priority: healthcare and frontline workers, persons over 50 years and persons with co-morbid conditions.

Some tips to satisfy common queries of the general public: Vaccination for Covid-19 is voluntary. However, it is advisable to receive the complete schedule of Covid-19 vaccine for protecting self against this disease and also to limit the spread of this disease to the close contacts including family members, friends, relatives and co-workers.

It is advisable to receive complete schedule of Covid vaccine irrespective of past history of infection with Covid-19 as it will help in developing a strong immune response.

Infected individuals should defer vaccination for 14 days after symptoms resolution as they may increase the risk of spreading the virus to others at the vaccination site.

Eligible beneficiaries will be informed through their registered mobile number regarding the health facility for vaccination and its scheduled time. Any of the below mentioned ID with Photo may be produced at the time of registration: Aadhaar / Driving Licence / Voter ID / PAN Card / Passport / Job Card / Pension document / Health Insurance Smart Card issued under the scheme of Ministry of Labour / Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) Job Card / Official identity cards issued to MPs/MLAs/MLCs / Passbooks issued by Bank / Post Office / Service ID issued to employees by Central / State Govt. / Public Limited Companies. Although registration is not mandatory, it's a lot

easier to get information on the session site and time much more easily if one is registered. Photo ID is a must for both registration and verification of beneficiary at session site to ensure that the intended person is vaccinated.

Following online registration, beneficiaries will receive SMS on their registered mobile numbers on the due date, place and time of vaccination. On getting due dose of Covid-19 vaccine, the beneficiary will receive SMS on their registered mobile number. After all doses of vaccine are administered, a QR code-based certificate will also be sent to the registered mobile number of the beneficiary.

As is true for many other vaccines, the common side effects in some individuals could be mild fever, pain, etc., at the site of injection. So, the State Governments have been asked to start making arrangements to deal with any Covid-19 vaccine-related side-effects. Persons with one or more of

comorbid conditions including cancer are considered high risk category.

They need to get Covid-19 vaccination. Two doses of vaccine, 28 days apart, need to be taken by an individual to complete the vaccination schedule. Protective levels of antibodies are generally developed two weeks after receiving the second dose of Covid-19 vaccine. Covid-19 has put mankind upside down.

Panic of the unusual flu has virtually destroyed the skills of the productive communities all over the world. Giant battles in different domains have been reduced to midgits in own dens.

The incredible speed at which vaccines got developed proves the fact that necessity is the only mother of invention. It would be wise to mention again that the doubting super-brains have only two choices: (1) the cold grip of disease or death and (2) the safety of guaranteed immunity against any corona virus.



**CAPITAL 2**  
Internet link to blocks,  
GPS on priority list

**OPINION 6**  
OPPORTUNISTIC  
OLI?

**WORLD 8**  
US CANCELS AMBASSADOR'S  
CONTROVERSIAL TRIP TO TAIWAN

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## Inoculation sites reduced by half

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

From Goa to Meghalaya and Jammu & Kashmir to down south Kerala, the vaccines against Covid-19 are being ferried to far corners of the country for the vaccination drive that will be launched on Saturday even as the Government on Wednesday reduced the number of inoculation sites to almost half from previous target of 4,895, citing technical reasons.

It means, coronavirus vaccine will be administered in fewer sites than originally decided, at least for the first few days with fewer people getting vaccinated. Earlier, the vaccination was scheduled to take place through Government hospitals — there was to be 4,895 sites across the country.

Sources said that the number has been slashed to almost half. For instance, in Punjab, the number of these sites has been reduced from 110 to 59 for the opening day while Assam has been asked to reduce the number of sites from 74 to 59, sources said. Required cold supply chain has been one of the challenges for the delivery system, especially in the rural areas.

"The Centre asked us to reduce the vaccine centres. Now we have reduced it from 511 to 350. The Centre said, 'Don't be in haste,'" Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope told the media. In Mumbai, the number of sites has been reduced from 72 to 50. The numbers have been slashed in Pune also, now vaccination will take place only in 35 sites.

The authorities are hoping to finish the vaccination of 30 crore people belonging to

Covid-19 vaccines reaching all centres across India, earlier 4,895 vaccination spots were chosen in country



Medical department workers unload boxes of Covid-19 vaccines from a vehicle at cold storage of a hospital in Srinagar on Wednesday

PTI

high-risk groups within six months to achieve a critical mass of vaccinated people with around 3 crore health workers and corona warriors to get the shots in the first phase beginning January 13.

On their part, Serum Institute of India has moved about 56 lakh doses of Covishield to 13 cities. Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech said it had successfully transported the indigenous Covaxin, developed in collab-

oration with the ICMR and the National Institute of Virology, to 11 cities. It said it has donated 16.5 lakh doses to the Centre.

"After having received the Government purchase order for 55 lakh doses, the company shipped the first batch of vaccines (each vial containing 20 doses)," Bharat Biotech said in a statement on Wednesday.

It added that the vaccine was sent to Ganavaram, Guwahati, Patna, Delhi,

Kurukshetra, Bengaluru, Pune, Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Chennai and Lucknow.

As the vials began reaching their destinations, in readiness for the pan-India vaccination drive that will be launched on Saturday, States firmed up their plans and fine-tuned logistical details.

In Delhi, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said his AAP Government will provide the vaccine free if the Centre fails to do so. He said he has already

### Vaccination trial on local population must for jobs' nod in India

New Delhi: Any vaccine maker, including Pfizer, which has sought emergency-use authorisation for its Covid-19 shot in India, must conduct a local "bridging" safety and immunogenicity study to be considered for the country's immunisation programme, a senior government official told Reuters.

appealed to the Centre as there are many people in the country who can't afford the life-saving jab. In accordance with the national priority list, the Covid-19 vaccines will be given first to healthcare and frontline workers.

The first consignment of about 94,000 doses of the Covishield vaccine reached Bhopal on a scheduled flight from Mumbai, a State Government official said.

From the airport, insulated vans of the health department transported the boxes — which signals India entering a decisive phase in its fight against the pandemic — to the State vaccine centre where Medical Education Minister Visvas Sarang inspected the arrangements. The doses will be dispatched to eight districts from Bhopal.

Kerala, too, received its first Covishield vaccine consignment on Wednesday morning on a Go Air flight that landed at Kochi. Sources in the National Health Mission said of the 4.33 lakh doses of the vaccine, 1,100 will be sent to Mahe, an enclave of Puducherry.

## Farmers burn copies of agri laws on Lohri



Farmers burn copies of the new farm laws as they celebrate Lohri festival during their ongoing protest against the Central Government, at Singhu Border in New Delhi on Wednesday

Ranjan Dimri | Pioneer

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Farmers protesting at Delhi borders burnt copies of Centre's new agriculture laws at all demonstration sites on the festival of Lohri on Wednesday, as a mark of protest against the legislation. Meanwhile, All India Kisan Sangarsh Coordination Committee (AIKSCC) on Wednesday claimed farmers burnt copies of the Act at more than 20,000 spots all across the country.

Many farmer leaders also threw copies of the farm laws in the bonfire created on the premises of the Kisan Andolan office. According to Paramjeet Singh of Samyukta Kisan

Morcha, around one lakh copies of the three agri laws, were burnt at the Singhu border alone. Lohri is widely celebrated in Punjab and Haryana to mark the harvesting of rabi crops. People traditionally celebrate it by circling around bonfires, throwing food items — peanuts, puffed rice, popcorn, etc — into the fire, singing folk songs, dancing and feasting.

"The celebrations can wait. We will celebrate all these festivals the day our demand of repealing of these black laws are met by the Centre," said 65-year old Gurpreet Singh Sandhu who hails from Haryana's Karnal district.

"This Lohri is filled with struggle," said Rajbir Singh, a

34-year-old farmer from Punjab's Barnala. "It is minus the fun, the song and the dance we used to have back home on Lohri. But I am happy to be here and celebrate it with my family of farmers this time."

"Today, we have burned the copies, tomorrow the Centre will burn them. They have to, we will make them do it," he added.

Several bonfires were lined up at the Delhi-Haryana border stretch, the nerve centre of the farmers' agitation. The protesting farmers raised slogans, sang songs of resistance and hope as they orbited the bonfire, burning copies of farm laws and praying for the success of their protest.

## In desi push & IAF boost, ₹48K cr OK'd for 83 Tejas

### Induction into IAF scheduled for 2026

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a major boost to indigenisation drive in defence manufacturing, the Government on Wednesday approved a ₹48,000-crore deal for producing 83 Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA) by the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

The induction of these aircraft will give a much-needed push to the IAF's efforts to modernise and stabilise its dwindling fighter jet strength. While the sanctioned strength is nearly 40, the IAF has now only about 30 squadrons. One squadron has 18 to 20 jets.

If the production schedule is on time, the fleet of 83 jets will start coming into the IAF by 2026. A contract between the IAF and the HAL is expected to be inked next month. At present, the IAF has 18 Tejas manufactured by the HAL and



these jets are operating from the IAF base in Sullur, Tamil Nadu.

Given the current security scenario where the armed forces have to be ready to face the possibility of fighting a two-front war simultaneously with Pakistan and China, the IAF urgently needs to shore up its number of fighter jets.

The Defence Ministry said the Union Cabinet approved procurement of 73 Tejas (LCA) Mk-1A fighter aircraft and 10 Tejas Mk-1 (LCA) trainer aircraft at the cost of ₹45,696 crore along with Design and

Development of Infrastructure sanctions worth ₹1,202 crore.

The Mk-1A variant is an indigenously designed, developed and manufactured state-of-the-art modern 4 plus generation fighter aircraft.

This aircraft is equipped with critical operational capabilities of Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radar, Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Missile, Electronic Warfare (EW) Suite and Air to Air Refuelling (AAR) would be a potent platform to meet the operational requirements of the IAF.

### Pari case: SC accepts mom's plea for CBI probe

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Supreme Court on Wednesday accepted a writ petition filed by Soudamini Sahoo seeking a CBI probe into the case of death of her five-year-old daughter Pari. Justice AM Khanwilkar heard the petition and issued notices to the CBI and the Odisha Government.

Senior Advocates Mahesh Jethmalani and Ravi Sharma argued in the court on behalf of Soudamini Sahoo. The petition has been filed under Article 32 of the Constitution stating that as the murder case has raised questions on the role of local police, it must be investigated by an impartial Central agency like the CBI.

Notably, on Tuesday, the Orissa High Court expressed satisfaction over the progress of the ongoing probe carried out by the Special Investigation Team of the State Crime Branch into the Pari case.

Related story on Page 2

## 150-metre-long, 30-ft-deep cross-border tunnel found

### Sand bags with Karachi markings found, high alert sounded in area

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

The foot soldiers of the Border Security Force (BSF) on Wednesday detected a 150-metre long and 25 to 30-feet deep cross-border tunnel, the third in recent months, in Bobiya area of Samba sector in the Jammu region.

The tunnel originated from the Pakistani side of the international border and was detected by a BSF patrol party during its special anti-tunnel drive. The drive was launched following intel reports about presence of such tunnels in the Samba and Kathua sectors of Jammu frontier.

A high alert has been sounded in the entire border belt to find out whether the same under-construction tun-



nel has been used by the terrorists to sneak inside the Indian territory with the help from the Pakistani rangers.

Inspector General of BSF, Jammu frontier, NS Jamwal, who himself rushed to the spot, told reporters that it was a matter of investigation whether the tunnel was put to use by the Pakistan-based infiltrators to sneak inside the Indian territory.

Sharing details of the operation, Jamwal said, "During an

anti-tunneling drive the vigilant troops of BSF detected a tunnel in BOP Bobiya Area in Samba Sector around 10.30 am on Wednesday."

He said the tunnel was detected about 90 metres from zero line and about 20 metres from the fence on our own side.

IG BSF told reporters that the exit on Indian side was reinforced with sand bags which carried markings of a Karachi based unit.

### Cuttack ISBT to be named after Netaji

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday announced that the proposed Inter-State Bus Terminal (ISBT) at Khan Nagar in Cuttack would be named after Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Presiding over a virtual meeting, Patnaik said the ISBT would be set up at Khan Nagar in an area of 12 acre under the 5-T initiative of the State Government. Around Rs 65 crore would be spent for its construction.

The Chief Minister directed to set up a special kiosk in the terminus displaying the life and struggle of Netaji to inform people. The new Netaji bus terminal, Cuttack would have state-of-the-art facilities for hassle-free movement of passengers from arrival to departure.

The bus terminal would have a built-up area of 11,000 sqm. There would be 180 bus bays along with parking space for four-wheelers and auto-rickshaws.

### BBSR reports 1 more Covid death

STATE TOLL REACHES 1,895

210 NEW +VES; TOTAL 3,32,541

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State reported 210 new Covid-19 positive cases from 24 districts and the State pool surging the total positive tally to 3,32,541 on Wednesday.

Of new cases, 122 were from quarantine and 88 local contact cases. Sundargarh district registered the day's highest 30 cases followed by Angul 24, Sambalpur 16, Cuttack 14, Khordha and Jharsuguda 13 each and Puri 10. Three cases were reported from State pool. Meanwhile, death toll jumped to 1,895 in State on day with one more fatality.

### Groups clash in BBSR with swords, guns

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Two groups of anti-socials armed with firearms and sharp weapons clashed at Unit-6 under the Capital police station of Bhubaneswar, leaving scores of people injured on Wednesday evening. The clash broke out over suspected past enmity. The miscreants fired shots and used sharp weapons. The injured were rushed to the Capital Hospital.

About 10 to 12 youths were sitting behind the Capital Hospital when the rival group attacked them. Eyewitnesses said two miscreants were armed with guns. Police have launched a probe into the incident and were on the lookout of the attackers. The incident triggered panic among the locals and shopkeepers.

### Covaxin for BBSR, Covishield for districts

20,000 doses of Covaxin received

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Covid-19 vaccine 'Covaxin' developed by the Bharat Biotech would be administered to 9,000 beneficiaries in Bhubaneswar while AstraZeneca's 'Covishield' of the Serum Institute of India (SII) would be given to shortlisted people in all the districts across the State, said Health Director and Vaccine in-Charge Dr Bijay Panigrahi on Wednesday.

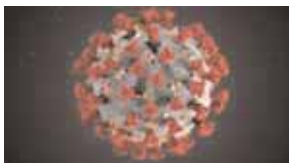
Initially, 1,92,555 out of 3,38,777 healthcare workers short-listed for the first phase of the immunisation drive would be vaccinated. The highest 17,190 healthcare workers would be vaccinated in Cuttack district followed by 15,120 in Ganjam and 10,710 in Mayurbhanj. In

Bhubaneswar, the vaccination drive would be conducted at five session sites: Capital Hospital, Unit-4 Urban Community Health Centre, SUM Hospital, KIIMS Hospital and BMC Hospital. "Yesterday, 4.08 lakh doses of Covishield had reached Odisha while 20,000 doses of Covaxin arrived today.

Around 50% of the vaccine will be used in first dose. Total 1,92,555 beneficiaries will take the first dose of the vaccine shot in the State. The second dose will be given after 28 days," informed Dr Panigrahi.

The Covaxin consignment arrived at the airport here from Hyderabad and later transported to the State Vaccine Store. The Covishield vaccine that had reached on Tuesday would be dispatched to all districts within 48 hours ahead of the vaccination drive beginning from January 16.

### 11 new +ve in BBSR



PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

State capital Bhubaneswar on Wednesday reported 11 more Covid-19 positive cases, with which the city's total tally increased to 31,769. Of the new cases, seven were local contacts and four quarantine cases.

Besides, one more death was reported in the city on the day, increasing its total toll to 244. However, 10 patients recovered on the day, taking the city's total recoveries to 31,304.

## Social activist Prakash Rao no more

### PM, CM deeply mourn demise

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Noted social activist and tea seller Padma Shri D Prakash Rao passed away while undergoing treatment at the SCB Medical College Hospital here on Wednesday. He died following a brain stroke, informed family sources.

Rao had been admitted to the hospital after testing positive for Covid-19 on December 25 last. He was also being treated for kidney-related ailments. He was shifted to an ICU of the hospital after his condition deteriorated. A team of doctors were engaged for his

treatment. Rao was conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri award for providing education to poor children free of cost. He ran a small school at Buxi Bazaar here to provide free education to slums kids from Classes-I to V.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the death stating, "Saddened by the demise of Shri D Prakash Rao. The outstanding work that has done will continue motivating people.

He rightly saw education as a vital means to empowerment. I recall my meeting with him in Cuttack a few years ago. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti." Governor Ganeshi Lal tweeted, "He will always be remembered for his selfless service in trans-



forming the lives of thousands of poor kids through his school 'Asha o Ashwasana'." Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "The Good Samaritan will always be remembered for his dedication to uplift the lives of children through education. My thoughts & prayers with the bereaved family members." Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan also deeply mourned Rao's death.



# 3 mishaps at same spot on Ganjam NH

➦ 1 KILLED, 6 INJURED  
➦ 2 CRITICALLY HURT AS BUS OVERTURNS IN K'HANDI  
➦ DRIVER, WOMAN KILLED AS TRACTOR OVERTURN IN R'GADA

**PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR/ BHAWANI-PATNA/ RAYAGADA**

As many as three road mishaps took place at same spot on NH-16 near Tampara in the Chhatrapur area of Ganjam district on Wednesday, killing a man and leaving six others injured.

In the first incident, a tanker carrying LPG overturned in the morning and the driver sustained minor injuries. The driver lost control over the wheels of the vehicle due to low visibility caused by dense fog, following which it turned turtle. As a part of precautionary measure, police restricted movement of vehicles on both sides of the portion of the

road. Hours later, a police patrolling vehicle met with an accident near the spot leaving five police personnel injured. After finishing the rescue operation, the cops were on their way back when a motorcyclist came in front of the vehicle.

To save the man, the driver of the van swerved and lost control over the wheels, following which it overturned. Later, a goods truck skidded off the road and turned turtle at the spot killing its driver.

The truck was being parked on roadside by the driver as movement of vehicles was restricted, during which the mishap took place. In another incident, a private bus carrying around 30 to 40 pas-



sengers from Bhubaneswar to Malkangiri overturned at Amapani ghat in Kalahandi district, early in the morning. The helper of the bus Surjya Barik, and a passenger Sudeep Mohanty were rescued by police and admitted to the Koksara Hospital.

In another mishap in Rayagada district, a tractor overturned near Trikalapadu under Kalyansinghpur block of Rayagada district on Tuesday killing two persons and leaving

two others critically injured. The cotton-laden vehicle was heading towards Belagama from Majhiguda with three women labourers onboard. The tractor turned turtle resulting in the death of the driver on the spot.

The three women were rescued and rushed to District Headquarters Hospital, where one of them succumbed to injuries. Police have seized the vehicle and started an investigation into the incident.

## P'lahara tribals hold rally against farm laws

**PNS ■ PALLAHARA**

Under the leadership of CPI (M) district president Mina Rani Pradhan and Odisha Krusak Sava president Jambeswar Samantray, a tribal farmers' rally was taken out from Gundicha temple here to the Sub Collector office on Tuesday.

The agitators shouted slogans against the Central Government over farm laws. The rally reached the sub collector office premises where a meeting and demonstration was held.

The agitators demanded that the Central Government withdraw the new farm laws soon. Besides, Samantray alleged various irregularities in the block by the officials. They submitted a memorandum for the President of India.

# 20 yrs on, K'pada mill workers not paid dues

## After powerloom unit shut

**RAJESH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPADA**

The workers of Baladevjeu powerloom, who were yet to get their pending salaries despite 20 years have passed to the closure of the power loom recently knocked at the doors of the district Collector demanding to take steps for clearing their dues.

According to the workers, the Baladevjeu Powerloom was the sole industry in the agriculture-based coastal Kendrapada district. More than 200 workers were engaged in the powerloom at Tinimuhani

under Kendrapada township. But the powerloom mill was closed down by the authorities in November 1996 after the mill faced heavy losses due to several reasons. The company forced the workers to take VRS on November 30, 2001, but without clearing their dues.

Consequently, the aggrieved workers had knocked the doors of the Orissa High Court. But the State Government did not take any step for the powerloom's revival. On the other hand, the State Government engaged a liquidator for collecting the assets of the company and settling liability valuations.

The High Court adjudging the matter on March 6, 2019 had directed the liquidator to clear the dues of the workers as



well. But, the court's order was flouted. Muralidhar Das, a victim worker, said, "Now it has become a difficult task for us to collect our bread as the company is yet to pay 'closure compensation' under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 at the time of closure of the unit and also our salary." The workers urged the district Collector to look into their demands within a fortnight or else they would resort to agitational measures.

# Govt targets 220MT fish production by 2024

## Min Sarangi lays stress on training, awareness of farmers

**PNS ■ BALESWAR**

Union Minister, MSME, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Pratap Chandra Sarangi while participating in a webinar claimed that the Government had a target of achieving fish production of 220 lakh MT by 2024. He stressed on training and awareness among fish farmers. To achieve the target, the need of hour is awareness and training to the fish farmers, said Sarangi. "The farmers should be trained with mod-

ern technology and techniques. Focus should be on production of quality spawns and their preservation, establishment of cold chambers, distribution chain and marketing etc, besides implementing Government schemes," Sarangi said adding that the sector would contribute towards doubling the income of farmers by 2024.

Attending the meeting, Agriculture Minister Arun Kumar Sahoo said that the current production of fish the State was around 8 lakh MT and it was a matter of pride that the State could earn a feat of the best marine fish production State.

Odisha has a plan of involving the SHGs in fish farming sector and enhancing the production further, Sahoo further maintained. Fisheries Secretary Dr R Raghu Prasad mentioned about the various



schemes of Government such as subsidy and other facilities extended by the State Government for promotion and growth of pisciculture in the State.

The Several Government officials and experts in the field including of State and Centre, G Ratn Raj, Debananda Bhanj, Ambika Prasad Nayak, Dr Gunamaya Patra, Dr Manas Sinha and Ajay Kumar Bhoi among others spoke.

# JCI Talcher unit holds foundation day

**PNS ■ ANGUL**

The second Foundation Day of Talcher branch of the Junior Chamber International (JCI) was celebrated at Deulabada.

The meeting which was presided over by Rakesh Gupta, was addressed by finance administrator Pramod Sahu, former zone presidents Rajendra Jaiswal, Yogita Jaiswal, vice president Asis Agrawalla and advisor Dr Rashmi Ranjan Mishra.

Addressing the gathering, the distinguished guests elaborated the mission of JCI, which provides development opportunities that empower young people to create positive changes.

The JCI believes that faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life and brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations. Meanwhile, Talcher branch of

JCI has been felicitated as the best unit in the 9th Zone for undertaking various development works.

The new president of the branch took oath along with other office bearers namely Manish Agrawalla, Kushal Agrawalla, Bikash Agrawalla, Akash Modi, Jitendra Agrawalla, Subhakanta Acharya and Pratap Barik. Various intellectuals and dignitaries attended meeting.



# Govt urged for Sonagada river barrage

**PNS ■ BALANGIR**

Convenor of Sonagada Barrage Kriyanusthan Committee Laxman Meher urged the Government to sanction a barrage construction project over river Sonagada near Sikuan village in Deogaon block, which was already approved by the Technical Advisory Committee of Water Resources Department.

Stating that once the barrage over river Sonagada is completed, it would provide irrigation benefits to around 3,200 acres of land in Deogaon

and Balangir block, boosting agricultural and economic activity of farmers, besides improving the ground water level in the area, Meher requested for early steps to build the barrage.

On January 3, a big farmers' meeting was held at Sikuan village demanding construction of the barrage over the river Sonagada. Another meeting of farmers will be held shortly in Bhutiarbahal village in Balangir block, adding that a delegation of farmers would likely meet CM to appraise about the project soon, Meher informed.

# Auctioning of coalmines Odisha also to garner more coal revenue

**PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR**

Minerals-rich States, including Odisha, would garner total revenue of Rs 6,656 crores annually from the successfully-auctioned 19 coalmines. With a fierce competition in the auction, the highest premium remained at 66.75% and the average premium 27%.

These mines are spread over five States Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Maharashtra and have a consolidated Peak Rated Capacity (PRC) of 51 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). The Coal Ministry also executed agreements with the 19 successful bidders of India's first-ever commercial

mining auctions that include Vedanta Ltd, Adani Enterprises Ltd, Jindal Power Ltd and Hindalco Industries Ltd.

Presently, about 19 major approval or clearances are required to be obtained before starting a coalmine. These approvals or clearances are granted either by the Central or State Governments.

In the absence of a unified platform for grant of clearances/approvals for starting of a coalmine, the project proponents are required to approach different administrative ministries and Government departments separately to apply for requisite clearances leading to delay in operationalisation of coalmines.

# In Kalahandi Black flags waved at Ministers, MLAs

**PNS ■ BHAWANIPATNA**

Members of the Youth Congress showed black flags to several State Ministers and BJD MLAs in Kalahandi district on Wednesday.

According to reports, the Youth Congress workers waved black flags at Ministers Susanta Singh, Dibya Shankar Mishra and Tukuni Sahu and MLA Pranab Prakash Das when their caravans were passing through Nakatiguda Chhak here.

Notably, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik is scheduled to inaugurate several projects in Kalahandi on Thursday, for which many Ministers and rul-



ing party MLAs have already reached the district for the event. However, the district unit of the Congress has opposed the slated visit of the CM by terming it as a move for political gain without really ensuring any development in the district.

# In Angul Youth burnt alive by family for alcoholism

## He sustained 80 per cent burn injuries

**PNS ■ NANGUL**

The youth, Rajkishore Pradhan, who had been burnt alive at Kadalimunda village under the Handapa police limits in Angul district on Tuesday, was killed by his family members over his repeated misbehaviour after liquor consumption, it was learnt on Wednesday.

Police have detained his mother Basanti Pradhan and elder brother Subash Pradhan in this connection for questioning.

According to reports, Rajkishore (23) used to create ruckus in the house after consuming liquor on a regular basis. Infuriated over his inebriated conduct, his family members poured petrol on him and set him on fire.

He sustained 80 per cent burn injuries and was taken to the nearby Athmallik Hospital, where a doctor declared him brought dead.

# 'Govt's affidavit on farm laws evasive'

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Congress on Wednesday alleged that the Central Government has misled through its affidavit in the Supreme Court on January 11 claiming that due consultations were made before bringing in the three farm laws which is infact an attempt to "prevaricate, distort, misrepresent" the facts.

Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi said the Government's affidavit is at variance to an RTI reply given by them. In reply to two RTI applications filed by activist Anjali Bhardwaj who sought details of pre-legislative consultations, the information officer had said "this CPIO does not hold any record in this matter".

"The Government in its affidavit said it is being filed for the purpose of dispelling the erroneous notion that the protesters have peddled that the Central Government and Parliament never had any consultative process or examination of issues by any Committee before passing of the laws in question. And as examples of pre-legislative consultations, the government quotes circulating Draft Model



Acts in 2003 and 2017 to the State governments among other things. The Government claimed that the "legislations are not hurriedly made but are a result of two decades of deliberations. Can you call this elaborate consultative process? For a law that you bring in 2020, you circulate Model Act in 2017," Singhvi, also a senior Supreme Court lawyer said.

Singhvi said not even perfunctory consultations were done. "It is clear that there are serious attempts at prevarication, distortion, misrepresentation and misleading of the nation, the Supreme court and all relevant stakeholders, apart from indulging in blatantly contumacious conduct. These laws were rammed down the throat of Parliament. "The Government has attempted to fool all the people of India all the time by practising falsehoods on stilts. Unfortunately, they have not even spared the hon'ble Supreme Court," Singhvi added.

# 19 more students Covid + in J'suguda

**PNS ■ JHARSUGUDA**

After the reopening of schools in the State from January 8, as many as 19 students of both Government and private schools have tested positive for Covid-19 in the Laikera area of Jharsuguda district. Of the total 775 Class-X students in 13 high schools under Laikera block, 19 have been found positive for virus in Covid test in three schools. While nine students of JO High School, Sahaspur, have contracted infection, eight of Hemasagar High School, Pakelkhol, and two of KBJ High School, Salhetikra, were tested positive.

Source said a total of 335 students (43.22%) attended classes on first day of reopening of schools. Subsequently, attendance percentage of students increased in schools.

## PMFBY COMPLETES 5 YEARS 29 cr farmers enrolled with yojna so far: Min

**PNS ■ NEW DELHI**

Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Wednesday said 29 crore farmers have so far insured their crops under the Government's Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) and urged other growers — who have not yet got one — to enroll soon. On the occasion of five years of

implementation of PMFBY, the Minister said crop insurance is the only "suraksha kavach (security shield)" for farmers from any crop losses arising due to natural disasters. "So far, 29 crore farmers have insured their crops under the scheme and about 5.5 crores new farmers are getting registered every year. A total of ₹90,000 crore have been paid as claims to

farmers till now. In fact, scheme was fully operational during Covid-19 lockdown, distributing claims of over 8,741.3 crores to 69.70 lakh farmers across India, which is highly commendable," he said. PMFBY was launched on January 13, 2016 with an aim to provide a comprehensive risk solution at lowest uniform premium across country for farmers.

## INBRIEF

### GHADAI TALKS TO YOUTHS, STUDENTS ON YOUTH DAY

**Jaipur:** On the National Youth Day, an open discussion programme was held in Kaliapani with the youths and students of six mine-affected panchayats in Sukinda block joining the event. Former Finance Minister Dr Prafulla Chandra Ghadai as the chief guest laid a wreath at the photo of Swami Vivekananda on the occasion of his 156th birth anniversary. He encouraged everybody to follow the great social reformer. The preparations for the upcoming mining festival in the area were discussed.



### PWD EIC REVIEWS PROJECTS IN JAIPUR

**Jaipur:** Public Works Department Engineer-in-Chief (EIC) Anilkanta Tripathy visited Jaipur and reviewed various development projects being carried out by the department in the district. He took stock of the construction works of the Medical College Hospital, hockey stadium, Panikolli Tumour Care Centre, four-lane roads in Jaipur town. He directed the departmental officials to complete the works on scheduled time. PWD Cuttack Circle Superintending Engineer Taraprasad Mishra and Executive Engineer Arun Kumar Patnaik were present.

### GURBIR SINGH NEW DY DIRECTOR OF IB

**Brahmapur:** Gurbir Singh has assumed the post Deputy Director of Information and Broadcasting department of southern zone. He started his career in the department in 1994 as Sub-Division Officer, Jeypore. Thereafter, he successfully performed his duties in Kandhamal, Gajapati, Kalahandi, Ganjam and Puri districts. All staffs extended him a warm welcome to Singh on January 11. Singh is very popular in the department for his friendliness, honesty and sincerity.

### 10-FT KING COBRA RESCUED IN GANJAM

**Brahmapur:** A 10-feet-long king cobra was rescued from Sapanga village under Patrapur block in Ganjam district on Tuesday. One Komal Pradhan of the village spotted the reptile near a cowshed. Later, forest officials reached the spot and informed the Snake Helpline. Members of the Snake Helpline rescued the snake and released it into the forest near Tamna ghat. The king cobra had strayed into the residential area from the Rusimala Hill.



### BLANKETS GIVEN TO HOMELESS ON YOUTH DAY

**Bhubaneswar:** The Gunanidhi Rabinidra Memorial Trust distributed blankets and masks to hundreds of homeless people at the Dalmia Dharamsala near Bindusagara on the occasion of National Youth Day on Tuesday. Nilamani Mishra coordinated the event. Photographs of Swami Vivekananda, late Gunanidhi Mohapatra and late Rabinidra Mohapatra were garlanded. The event was attended by MLA Suresh Kumar Rautaray, social activist Sujata Mohapatra, PDHRI central secretary Lingaraj Sahoo, Dr Arvind Mohapatra, Aditya Mohapatra, Mamata Devi, Sasmita Pahadisingh and Prabhat Swayamsevak Ashok Maharana.

### YOUTH FORCES WOMAN COP TO PAY MONEY, HELD

**Kendrapada:** The Mahakalapada police arrested one Sumit Kumar Parida, a resident of Mangalpur village, for attempting to loot a woman constable of Jamboo Marine police station on Monday night. Mahakalapada PS IIC Manoranjan Choudhury said while Constable Monalisa Pati was returning home by a scooter on the Jamboo-Marshaghal road, the accused obstructed her and forced her to pay money. The victim later lodged an FIR. Police registered a case and arrested the accused. The accused was produced before the SDJM Court on Tuesday, from where he was remanded to jail custody after his bail petition was rejected.

### R-DAY FEST PREPARATORY MEET HELD AT PALLAHARA

**Pallahara:** Under the chairmanship of Sub-Collector-cum-president of the National Day Celebration Committee Ajit Kumar Pradhan, a preparatory meeting was held for celebration of the Republic Day. The day would be celebrated with Covid-19 restrictions. Parade and cultural programmes have been cancelled. The National Anthem would be performed by maintaining social distancing. Selected farmers, ASHAs, highest scorers of marks in HSC, +2,+3 and corona warriors would be felicitated. The meeting was presided over by DIPRO Dhukhabandhu Majhi. Tehsildar Swagat Das, BDO Rabinidra Majhi and Block Chairman Naba Naik were present.

# Fakir Mohan Museum to be set at FM university

**PNS ■ BALESWAR**

On the occasion of 179th birth anniversary of legendary figure Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Senapati, it has been decided to set up a museum in his name.

While addressing large gathering of students, teachers and staff at the FM University campus, Vice-Chancellor FM University Prof Dinabandhu Sahoo announced that a state-of-the-art Fakir Mohan Senapati Museum would be set up in the campus to recognise and popularise the outstanding contributions of one of the greatest poets of Odisha.

In the morning Prof Sahoo along with his colleagues visited the birth place of the poet and offered floral tributes. After going around the muse-



um which is located inside the city and not accessible to public, the Vice Chancellor said that the contributions of the poet should be known beyond the boundaries of Odisha.

Therefore, Prof Sahoo emphasised that the contributions of Fakir Mohan Senapati must be depicted in all three languages i.e. Odia, English and Hindi. He further added that a bigger life sized statue will be constructed in the university campus.

# Adhikari sees threat to his life, moves HC

**SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA**

Days after quitting the ruling Trinamool Congress and joining the BJP kicking up a political storm, Suvendu Adhikari has moved the Calcutta High Court apprehending threat to his life and seeking directions for the Mamata Banerjee Government to ensure full security along his route wherever he travels.

In his petition, Adhikari has referred to recurrent attacks on his convoy by alleged Trinamool Congress goons saying though he enjoys Z category security provided by the central Government the vehicles of his followers are regularly being attacked by the TMC-backed hooligans.

“On January 3 my convoy was

attacked at Kanthi, thereafter my followers were attacked at Purulia and other places. As I am under Z category security they are targeting my followers’ vehicles so as to hinder my movement,” Adhikari said adding “it is the duty of the State Government --- and there by the State police administration --- which controls State’s law and order to ensure my security when I am on the move.”

Referring to a similar order passed by Justice Dipankar Dutta in 2007 directing the State Government to ensure his security the former Bengal Minister said “I have petitioned the High Court to direct the State Government to implement the 2007 order itself.”

Adhikari said that the Centre

has provided him Z-category security following two IB reports apprehending threat to his life demanding “full protection along the routes I travel and the areas where my rallies are held.” He said the superintendents and commissioners of police should be directed to “ensure full protection to me and my followers during such political programmes.”

Meanwhile, continuing to take penal actions on the Adhikari family the Trinamool Congress on Wednesday removed Suvendu’s father Sisir Adhikari from the district presidency of the party’s East Midnapore unit. He was replaced by State Minister Soumen Mahapatra.

The senior Adhikari, also a powerful leader with mass con-

nect is a sitting MP and a former Union Minister. He was on Tuesday removed as the chairman of Digha Sankrpur Development Authority Board (DSDA).

Though the elder Adhikari continues to remain the chairman of district TMC inside sources said that the TMC top leadership decision to remove him from the said posts was a ploy to instigate him into following in his son’s footsteps. Suvendu’s younger brother was earlier removed as the Chairman of Haldia development Authority. His another brother Dibeyendu Adhikari too is a party MP from Tamluk constituency.

Meanwhile, in a related development Deputy Election Commissioner Sudip Jain on Wednesday told the

Magistrates and Superintendents of Police to pull up their socks or face action.

Acting tough on erring officers Jain said that election will be conducted only after “hundred percent peace” has been ensured. He said so during a meeting with the DMs, SPs and Commissioners of Police.

Sources said that the EC has told the officials that any dereliction of duty would not be tolerated and that any complaint against any official from the rank of presiding officer till the commissioner of police will first see the his or her removal.

“Only after removal or suspension, other disciplinary actions like show-cause etc will follow,” an insider quoting Jain said.

## Seven MLAs sworn in as Cabinet Ministers in K’taka

**Bengaluru:** With the induction of seven new faces, Karnataka Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa on Wednesday expanded his Cabinet for the third time in the last 17 months. This comes after days of hectic parleys and discussions, including with the central leadership of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Those who took oath on Wednesday in the Raj Bhavan are Umesh Katti, Aravind Limbavali, MTB Nagaraj, Murugesh Nirani, R Shankar, CP Yogeeshwara and S. Angara.

Rajarajeshwari Nagara MLA Muniratna Naidu, who was part of a group 17 defectors, has been left out, but Yediyurappa for the time being assuaged him stating that he would be accommodated during the next Cabinet reshuffle.

While being inducted, six of the new

ministers took the oath of office and secrecy while Katti took it in the “name of farmers and God”. Eight-time legislator from Hukkeri, Katti was the first one to be sworn in while six-time legislator from Sullia, S. Angara was the last to be sworn in.

With the swearing in of seven new members, Yediyurappa has filled 33 Cabinet slots, while keeping one vacant for the time being. Yediyurappa had directed Excise Minister H. Nagesh to resign from his ministry and the CM is likely to keep one vacant berth.

This was the third expansion of the Cabinet since Yediyurappa assumed charge in July 2019 after the collapse of the Congress-JD(S) government as 17 MLAs of the coalition partners defected and joined the BJP by resigning their Assembly membership.

**IAN5**

## ADMK-led alliance, not NDA, to shine in polls: EPS

**KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI**

Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy has categorically stated that there would be no National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Tamil Nadu for the upcoming assembly election. “The Front in Tamil Nadu will only be known as the AIADMK-led alliance,” said Palaniswamy in his interaction with reporters on Tuesday.

The Chief Minister also made it clear that there would be no change in the AIADMK-led alliance. This means that all parties that contested in alliance with the AIADMK in the 2019 Lok Sabha election would fight the 2021 assembly election together.

He pointed out the announcement by C T Ravi, the BJP’s National Secretary in

charge of Tamil Nadu that the Hindutwa party endorsed his name as the chief ministerial candidate, G K Vasan, leader of Tamil Manila Congress, told declared his party’s support for Palaniswamy as chief minister.

A source close to Dr Ramadoss, founder of the Vanniyar dominated PMK, told The Pioneer that the party would remain with the AIADMK. “Doctor Ayya (as Ramadoss is addressed by others) is in talks with the AIADMK leadership for reservation for Vanniyar community in government institutions and jobs. If our demands are accepted, we will remain in the AIADMK-led alliance,” said the source.

But he also disclosed that there was no question of the PMK aligning with the DMK.

“The DMK is the party which has done maximum damage to the Vanniyar community,” said the PMK leader.

This means that the DMDK is the only political outfit that is yet to make its stance known about the assembly polls. With party founder Vijayakanth ailing and remaining out of action, his wife and party treasurer Premalatha is unlikely to move towards the DMK camp, said a political commentator.

Political Tamil Nadu is expected to come alive after the visit of former Congress President Rahul Gandhi to Madurai on Thursday. The scion of the Congress party is flying down to Madurai to watch the traditional jallikattu (bull taming) at Avaniyapuram.

Congress chief K S Alagiri said that Rahul Gandhi has no

other engagements except watching the bull taming. He is likely to interact with farmers to get a first hand information about the issues faced by them. Interestingly, the Congress had assured the people in its 2009 and 2014 election manifestos that the party, if voted back to power, would ban Jallikattu.

J P Nadda, BJP President, too would pay a two day visit to Tamil Nadu starting Thursday. Besides celebrating Pongal (the annual harvest festival of Tamil Nadu) at a suburb in Chennai, the BJP boss would be the chief guest at the anniversary celebrations of Thuglak , the weekly launched by late “Cho” Ramaswamy. The Thuglak anniversary is rated as Tamil Nadu’s major socio-political-cultural event held on January 14 every year.

## Kerala Film Academy chairman’s letter to regularise Left staff triggers controversy

**KOCHI:** An effort by the chairman of Kerala State Chalachitra Academy (Kerala State Film Academy) to jumpack the government-funded institution with Marxists and Islamic fundamentalists have come a cropper thanks to an initiative by Ramesh Chennithala, Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly.

Chennithala shocked the ruling CPI(M) and the cultural fraternity in the State when he released on the floor of the House, copy of a letter written by Mohammed Majeed Kamaluddin (popularly known as Kamal), chairman of Kerala State Film Academy, in which he has demanded A K Balan, minister of culture, to declare the Marxists and Islamists working in the Academy on contract basis as permanent

staff.

Kamaluddin was appointed chairman of the Academy by the CPI(M)-led Pinarayi Vijayan Government as part of its policy of appeasing minorities. The movie maker is an accused in a sexual abuse case that happened in 2018. An upcoming film artist had alleged that Kamaluddein had sexually exploited her after promising the role of heroin in his new venture. But the director said that he had settled the issue then and there giving credence to the charges by the young artist.

The Film Academy chairman has said in his letter that persons who have been working as Deputy Director (Festival), Festival Programme Manager, Deputy Director (Programmes), Programme

Manager on contract basis be declared as permanent staff members of the Government of Kerala. Film Academy is tasked with holding the annual International Film Festival of Kerala.

Kamaluddin has said that cultural institutions in the State should be packed with Marxists and those who uphold/follow Progressive/Marxist ideology. “This is to sustain the Left nature of the Film Academy,” Kamaluddin has written in his letter to the Minister.

“All cultural organisations funded by the Government of Kerala, viz Kerala Sahitya Academy, Music and Dance Academy, Folklore Academy, Academy of Fine Arts are jam-packed with CPI(M) activists and fellow travellers of the party.

**PNS**

## UP’s primary teachers to get corporate appraisal system

**Lucknow:** The basic education department Uttar Pradesh has decided to introduce a system of ‘corporate appraisal’ for teachers and principals in primary schools.

Teachers will now have to ‘earn’ points for promotion in job or increment in salary.

According to the government spokesman, the basic education department has asked teachers and head teachers to fill in a self-evaluation form based on nine parameters on the Manav Sampada portal latest by April 15.

While seven performance indicators are common for teachers and school heads, two are different.

**IAN5**

# Coal & cattle scam: CBI to summon 17 IPS officers

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA**

In what BJP leaders Suvendu Adhikari and State party president Dilip Ghosh sees just the penultimate step before the Central Bureau of Investigation reaches the doors of the “topmost Trinamool Congress leadership,” the central investigation agency is all set to send summons to at least 17 IPS officers in connection to the coal smuggling case.

“There is just one step remaining ... let the CBI first catch hold of these corrupt businessmen and implicate the IPS officers then their hands will reach the TMC leadership that reside in South Kolkata,” Adhikari said.

The CBI is investigating the coal and cattle smuggling cases in which it has already quizzed six Bengal police officers and two former IPS officers. Two top businessmen Enamul Haq and Binay Mishra are also being probed in the cattle and coal

smuggling case. While Haq is in CBI custody Mishra, considered close to TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee is currently at large.

According to reports the CBI is speculating the role of government officials in the organised racket behind the cattle-smuggling case and coal-mining scam. The CBI had earlier discovered that cattle smuggling was unrestrained along the India-Bangladesh border which is allegedly aided by some corrupt officers of the BSF and Customs receiving illegal gratification from smugglers.

The 17 IPS officers under CBI radar may soon get the notice from the central agency to appear before it, sources said while the ruling TMC leadership saw in it a ploy by the BJP to force these officials to depose against their top leadership. “Nothing will deter our leader Mamata Banerjee from fighting against the communal forces like the BJP,” Trinamool MP Saugato Roy said.

## BJP demands rape-accused NCP Minister’s resignation

### Munde dismisses charges as fake

**TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI**

Two days after a woman lodged a complaint with the Mumbai police against Maharashtra’s Social Justice Minister Dhananjay Munde for alleged rape, the Opposition BJP on Wednesday upped the ante, by demanding the minister’s resignation on “moral grounds” and also seeking action against him from the Election Commission for allegedly suppressing information that he had two wives.

On a day when the NCP minister came out with a detailed Facebook post dismissing the allegations against him as “fake” aimed at “defaming and blackmailing me”, BJP’s women’s wing leader Chitra Wagh asked the Mumbai police to conduct an impartial investigations into the

allegations against Munde by “not succumbing to political pressure”.

Talking to media persons, Mrs Wagh said: “The allegations made against the minister are serious and shocking. I would like to tell the police not to succumb to any political pressure but to conduct an impartial probe into the allegations against the minister and act against those found guilty”.

“A couple months back, a few private photographs involving Dhananjay Munde had gone viral. I have been given to understand that the minister wrote a letter in November last year that he was being blackmailed and he had apprehended that there might be allegations against him. Now a woman named Renu Sharma has come forward and made allegations against Munde,” Mrs Wagh said.

“There is a need for an impartial probe into the allegations against Mr Munde. Mr

Munde should accept moral responsibility and resign from his post as a minister. Even my party president Chandrakant Patil has made a demand for Mr Munde’s resignation as the minister,” she said.

“In high profile cases like this, political pressure is brought to bear on the victim woman and her family and there is also likelihood of evidence being tampered with. Hence, it is essential for Mr Munde to resign from his post to paver way for an impartial probe into the allegations against him,” Mrs Wagh said.

In a complaint lodged with the Election Commission of India (ECI), BJP leader Kirit Somaiya said that Munde had not disclosed in his election affidavit filed during the 2019 State Assembly polls that he had two wives, children and properties in their names. He urged the ECI to order an inquiry and take appropriate action against

Munde, a senior NCP leader.

Dhananjay Munde is the estranged nephew of late BJP leader Gopinath Munde. He formally joined the NCP after resigning as the BJP MLC on July 2, 2013. He was re-elected to the Maharashtra Legislative Council on September 2, 2013. It may be recalled that Ajit Pawar had encouraged Dhananjay, a BJP MLC then, to rebel against his uncle Gopinath Munde in the run up to the December 2011 presidential poll in the Parli Municipal Council.

Meanwhile, in a detailed Facebook post, Munde referred to the allegation of rape made against him by one Renu Sharma, sister of the alleged victim woman, in social media. “The documents (released by Renu Sharma) mention some complaints filed against me. All these allegations are fake, aimed at defaming me and blackmailing me,” he said.

“I have been in a relationship with a woman named Karuna Sharma since 2003. This matter was known to my family, wife and friends. In this relationship of mutual consent, we were blessed with a son and a daughter. I have given my name to both of these kids,” Munde said.

“From school admission to all the papers these kids have my name as parents, these kids stay with me. My family, wife and my children have also taken these kids as family and approved. I have taken the responsibility of taking care of the woman named Karuna Sharma as the mother of my children,” Munde said.

“But from 2019, Karuna Sharma and his sister Renu Sharma blackmailed me and started demanding money. A complaint has also been lodged with the police in connection with the happenings since November 12, 2020,” he said.

# Sankranti cockfights popular in Andhra Pradesh despite Covid

**Seesali (Andhra Pradesh):** Hundreds of people gathered at Seesali village in Andhra Pradesh’s West Godavari district on Wednesday afternoon to engage in cockfights and place bets worth crores of rupees as part of Sankranti celebrations.

Sankranti just started with Bhogi festivities on Wednesday, wherein people pile up old wood and burn it to symbolically ring out the old and invite the new in the wee .

Seesali is a small Godavari village, 10 km away from Bhimavaram by the JP Road, where some acres of flattened paddy fields host the bloody sport every year without fail, behind a defunct prawn packing and exporting company. Manthana Ramaraju, local MLA and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader representing the Undi constituency was seen to be busy at the event. He entered the ring many times.

As the specially bred cocks fight it out with sharp knives tied to their feet, Ramaraju was also seen enjoying the show from a vantage point, wearing dark sunglasses on the first day of cockfights in this village.

Other local big shots who attended the cockfights include G. V. Narasimha Raju, brother of former Narasapuram MP Ganga Raju, newly appointed YSRCP Undi constituency in charge Ramaraju and others.

In about five acres of levelled paddy fields, the organisers pitched makeshift tents. The central tent serves as the

ring where the cockfights occur, which is surrounded by some more tents where the punters sit to watch and gamble.

Hundreds of plastic chairs are laid in the tents for people to sit and enjoy the show. On the other side of the tents, space is allocated for temporary food and beverage outlets where spicy fried chicken in Andhra style is making brisk sales.

Despite the arrangements, many spectators had to stand on their feet and struggle to catch a glimpse of the cockfight because the people sitting before would always block.

As the cockfights are planned to last for three days and also run till midnight, the organisers have fixed floodlights and a public address system. Volunteers wield a whip like stick used to control bullock cart bulls to bring order when people do not follow discipline and block others view.

“Everybody should vacate the ring right now. Please leave the ring. If you do not cooperate, we cannot conduct cockfights,” requests a volunteer. He also warns that he will hit them and requests them not to feel bad later.

Meanwhile, a cockfight just got over, which triggers a chain reaction in the spectators. All of them faithfully exchange wads of cash pledged in the bet on their chosen rooster. In addition to the two individual cock owners who place the main bet in the central tent, hundreds of enthusiasts sitting by also bet with each other.

**IAN5**

## 4 girls, including 3 sisters go missing in UP

**IAN5 ■ ETAWAH (UTTAR PRADESH)**

Four girls, including three sisters, have been missing under mysterious circumstances from the Civil Lines area of Etawah district.

The four girls had left their homes on Monday morning to attend their classes at a nearby government school.

The girls did not return home and their parents finally reported the matter to the police on Monday night.

One of the girls is 18 years

old while the remaining three are minors.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Etawah Omveer Singh said that a case has been registered under sections 363 and 366 of IPC.

“We have questioned the school authorities who claimed that the girls did not reach school on Monday. The police also questioned their parents, who have denied having enmity with anybody. Four investigating teams have been formed to locate the girls,” he said.

## HC asks Govt to facilitate ‘E-snan’ at Ganga Sagar Mela

**Kolkata:** Amid the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic situation, the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday advised all the pilgrims to go for ‘E-snan’ (E-bathe) during the holy Ganga Sagar Mela in West Bengal this year. Concerned by the risk of spreading Covid-19 infection, a bench of Chief Justice Thottathil B. Radhakrishnan and Justice Arijit Banerjee ordered the Mamata Banerjee-led state administration to make necessary arrangements to dissuade the pilgrims going for a holy dip in the water. Instead the administration can facilitate them to opt for ‘E-snan’ during the religious congregation.

The bench was presiding over a Public Interest Litigation

**The bench was presiding over a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed by Ajay Kumar De over the issue of public health and safety on the occasion of Makar Sankranti**

(PIL) filed by Ajay Kumar De over the issue of public health and safety on the occasion of Makar Sankranti.

The pilgrimage attracts lakhs of Hindu devotees every year who throng the Sagar Island in West Bengal’s South 24 Parganas district. Devotees take the holy dip in the water at the confluence of river Ganga offering prayers at the Kapil Muni temple on the island.

**IAN5**

## J&K Police arrests 2 LeT associates

**Srinagar:** Jammu & Kashmir Police have arrested two associates of proscribed terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba from Bulbul Bagh in Barzulla area of Srinagar district, officials said on Wednesday.

The arrested terrorist associates have been identified as Muzaffar Jan, a resident of old Barzulla, Srinagar and Abass Shafi Najar, a resident of Natipora, Srinagar.

“Arms and ammunition including two Chinese pistols, two magazines and 13 live pistol cartridges were recovered from their possession,” the police said.

Police have registered FIR and investigation in the case is underway.

**IAN5**

## Kerala cinema halls open after 10 months of Covid shutdown

**Thiruvananthapuram:** The movie theaters in Kerala, which were shut for around ten months owing to Covid restrictions opened on Wednesday.

Over 500 of the total 670 theaters opened to the public.

South Indian Super star Vijay’s movie, “Master”, is the inaugural movie in all the theaters in the state. However in certain theaters, owing to projector equipment complaints, the show was put on hold. Apsara theater in Kozhikode cancelled the 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. shows owing to a projector complaints, thereby disappointing a huge number of fans who had gathered in the theater.

Mohammed Koya, 34, an



A woman paints a Rangoli design in front of her house on the eve of Makar Sankranti, at Lankamura village on the outskirts of Agartala on Wednesday

**PTI**

avid fan of Vijay while speaking to IANS over telephone from Kozhikode said, “We booked the tickets two days prior through an online portal and all the seats were full. However, Apsara theater let us down, two shows have been cancelled. They say they will refund the ticket charge, we don’t want that. We want to watch the movie”.

Theaters in the state capital Thiruvananthapuram opened with all the shows being booked. However, owing to Covid protocol theaters have been allowed to admit only half the capacity. Every theater has put a gap of one seat and tied ribbon so as to not allow the people to sit in between two

seats.

Murugan, owner of a theater group in Thiruvananthapuram told IANS, “It’s a great relief. Even though we may get only 25 per cent of the collection owing to distribution charges of the movies, we are happy that the government has allowed the theaters to open. It’s a grand gala opening with Vijay movie ‘Master’. This makes us doubly happy and all the shows are booked for the next one week”.

In Palakkad district which borders Tamil Nadu, the movie opened with fans showering huge cutouts of Vijay with flowers and even pouring milk on them.

Subramanian Mani, a member of the Vijay fans club while speaking to IANS over telephone said, “Vijay is indeed a mega star. The movie will be super, we are about to enter the theater and there are no tickets even for fan club members for the next one week”.

Super stars of Malayalam movie industry, Mammooty, Mohanlal, Prithviraj have thanked the Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan for having allowed the theater’s to function.

With the theater’s opening, there is a long list of movies to be screened in the days to come with Jayasurya starrer, “Vellam” to be screened in select theaters on January 22.

**IAN5**



## The jab of health

Feverish preparations are going on across India for the ‘world’s biggest vaccination drive’ beginning January 16



With just hours to go before the first anti-COVID injections are given to the very first lot of beneficiaries — including three crore healthcare and frontline workers, high-risk groups with co-morbidities and around 27 crore people over 50 years of age — across India on January 16, the mammoth scale of preparations resembles a General Elections-type or a wartime-like setting, with pace, precision, efficiency, teamwork and synergy being the buzzwords. While the States firmed up their plans and fine-tuned logistical details, there were airplanes carrying the two vaccines flying into airports across the country from where the precious cargo was dispatched to small cities and towns in readiness for the inoculation exercise, and the police across States were in all readiness to receive and swiftly transport the life-saving immunogen and ensure its safety while it was under their charge. A day after the first consignment of 56 lakh doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca’s Covishield vaccine rolled out from the stable of the Serum Institute of India (SII) manufacturing facility in Pune to 13 cities, the Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech — which has donated 16.5 lakh doses to the Centre — said it had successfully transported Covaxin, developed in collaboration with the ICMR and the National Institute of Virology, to 11 cities. On a day when there were reports of “promising new antibodies” being found against the Coronavirus and China recorded a spike in cases ahead of a World Health Organisation team’s visit to investigate the origins of the virus, the exercise signalled India entering a decisive phase in its fight against the pandemic that has left the world crippled and economies in the doldrums.

Currently, active COVID-19 cases in India stand at 2,14,507 while 1,01,29,111 people have recovered from the disease after the country reported a single-day rise of 15,968 new cases and 202 fatalities, pushing its virus caseload to 1,04,95,147 and the death toll to 1,51,529, according to the Union Health Ministry. The world has been waiting with bated breath to get inoculated against the virus. The world’s most inexpensive vaccines are now being made available in India. Even the Union Health Ministry categorically stated that the two vaccines in India would be probably the “cheapest” vials because these are not being sold at market rates. Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan has clarified that the option of choosing either vaccine wasn’t available to the person going for vaccination, adding that only countries with a variety of vaccines available to them could enjoy this luxury. The Government Medical Store Department (GMSD) in Karnal, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai are being treated as the four main storage centres for the vaccine rollout, which shall see a “sequential rollout”. The Union Government, realising the import of the historic drive, also advised the States to “exercise continuous oversight and personal involvement at the highest level in the entire process” of the vaccination exercise. We wish the Union Health Ministry, the various pharmaceutical companies producing the vaccines and the State Governments deploying the vaccines, the very best of luck going into the inoculation drive. We also hope and pray that there are no untoward incidents and all unforeseen hiccups can be dealt with promptly. All of us need and want the “world’s biggest vaccination drive” to be a success so that the Herculean job of vaccinating millions of Indians can be completed as soon as possible.

## Welcome, Tesla!

The blue-chip electric car maker’s entry into the country promises to take the driving experience one gear higher



It is official! The Electric Vehicle (EV) major, Tesla, has entered the Indian market which is certainly good news for the green brigade and all EV enthusiasts. This is a development that everyone hankering after a thoroughbred EV was awaiting. It is expected to give a big push to India’s plans to move to green car technology in a major way in order to meet its global commitments to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change. The increased use of EVs could reduce CO2 emissions by 37 per cent. In October 2020, Tesla CEO Elon Musk had said that the process of bringing Tesla cars to India would begin in January 2021 and, towards the end of December 2020, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari had reiterated that commitment. Now that promise is being fulfilled and Tesla has registered Tesla India Motors and Energy Private Limited in Bengaluru as a subsidiary of the foreign company. However, as in all things related to maverick tech-billionaire Musk, there is a lot of mystery and speculation surrounding this entry at the moment and the firm’s India operations. But the positive thing is that the company is in talks with other State Governments too in its search for local partners. It’s not yet known what the car maker’s Bengaluru subsidiary will do, and there are reports that it could be just a research and development unit. It is speculated that Tesla may launch its fully electric Model 3 sedan in India at ₹60 lakh. However, this is way above the price tag common Indians can afford. Plus, there are already enough pure EVs in India that come at a much more reasonable price and Gadkari has already promised that India will continue to encourage other carmakers to build cheaper EVs which will be as technologically advanced as those made by Tesla.

Also, a few customers have already burnt their fingers as in 2016, Tesla collected \$1,000 as deposit from interested buyers in India but, despite Musk hinting in 2017 that his cars could come to the country in the summer of that year, those buyers who had paid the deposits are still waiting for their cars. At that time, Musk had cited FDI norms as the reason for the delay. “Maybe I’m misinformed, but I was told that 30 per cent of the parts must be locally sourced and the supply doesn’t yet exist in India to support that,” he had tweeted. But still, the news of Tesla’s entry has been received with a lot of enthusiasm in the country as all those who want a thoroughbred EV and for whom money is not a consideration will certainly opt for it. If the firm sets up a manufacturing unit, the cost of the EVs, too, will come down. It is hoped that Tesla will bring the charging infrastructure, which is much needed in the country right now, even though it might be on a proprietary basis at the beginning. Plus, with the Government also planning to set up 69,000 charging stations across the country at existing petrol pumps, EVs are the way forward, especially considering the soaring prices of petrol and diesel. Adoption of EVs in the country would help curtail its dependence on oil imports and lower its massive import bills which stand at nearly 85 per cent and a whopping \$102 billion respectively. In the end, the blue blood of EVs coming to India is good news because it will force the other car makers to ramp up their R&D and manufacturing in the country. It will make the use of EVs more acceptable because of its hip brand image and this uptake of EVs will also yield manifold benefits for the country, such as lowering pollution levels, improved balance-of-trade levels and meeting global climate change commitments. So now that Tesla has made a foray into India, it remains to be seen how its presence gives a fillip to the EV market in the country.

# Opportunistic Oli?

China’s mission is to prevent a formal split in the NCP after Parliament dissolution but the Nepal PM says he wants to be ‘a real friend of India’



ASHOK K MEHTA

Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali is in New Delhi for the 6th Meeting of India-Nepal Joint Commission. The invitation was given before Nepal Prime Minister KP Oli, facing a revolt in his party, dissolved Parliament last month and ordered elections, making him the head of a caretaker Government. Oli shot to fame by winning an overwhelming mandate for the pro-China Nepal Communist Party (NCP) on an anti-India wave of ultra-nationalism and later bashing New Delhi with sundry charges, including territorial aggression and attempts at unseating his Government. In diplomacy there are neither permanent friends nor permanent enemies, only permanent interests. Oli decided to make up to India with friendly overtures to which India responded favourably, prompting Nepalis to speculate that the dissolution of the House might be at India’s behest and that China’s loss is India’s gain. Except that the validity of the prematurely terminated Parliament in which Oli enjoyed a majority is to be determined by that country’s Supreme Court and an “election Government” could be in place if and when the elections are held. So far, India has issued one official statement noting that the political developments are an “internal matter for Nepal to decide as per its democratic process”. Indian Ambassador Vinay Kwatra has met Government Ministers in Kathmandu to continue minimal engagement. Meanwhile, the majority faction of the NCP — led by co-chairs Madhav Nepal and Prachanda, who is also the new leader of the parliamentary party and other Opposition parties — is out on the streets challenging Oli’s “undemocratic” and “unconstitutional” dissolution of Parliament. Heavily invested in Nepal, China failed to secure a patch-up and unity in the NCP despite dispatching a Chinese Communist Party delegation to the Himalayan State.

The China-US rivalry in Nepal has been hotting up over the Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPS) and the related Millennium Challenge Corporation, both seen by the Prachanda-Nepal group as countering China and obstructing its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). India’s border standoff and longstanding contestation with China makes it a natural partner of the US — rather the other way round in Nepal — turning the bilateral competition tri-lateral. The US has normally let India take the lead in Nepal and it



has followed. Since its drubbing over mishandling Nepal’s Constitution in 2015 and the Kalapani row in 2019, India has remained hands off Nepal, especially after the NCP’s unassailable election victory in 2017. It was resigned for a full five-year term of the NCP, during which China was expected to consolidate its strategic gains. The long-simmering power-sharing dispute within the NCP, egged on by ego and ambition of its leaders, presented an opportunity for New Delhi to try and subtly reshape the political landscape. There is nothing immoral or sinful in preventing China from turning the tables on India as long as the game is played skilfully, and not clumsily as in the past. It is the first time during Nepal’s internal crisis that China is seen as the “great interferer”, not the usual culprit India, and what’s better is that there is no palpable anti-India sentiment.

The Oli Government is expected to be in office for some time before the Supreme Court delivers its verdict. New Delhi has secured a timely reconciliation with Oli who is pro-US, pro-IPS, pro-MCC and once India’s blue-eyed boy. His statement on Sunday in the National Assembly that “I want to be a real friend of India” has to be tested. Routine work and interaction between the Governments has to continue. Following King Gyanendra’s royal coup in 2004, India condemned the squashing of democracy by stopping all lethal military aid to the Nepal Army, which was fighting the Maoists, but soon it accepted the *fait accompli* and resumed bilateral

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business. India reported increased speed and efficiency in the interactions among Government departments and an Indian official had remarked: “Never achieved so much so fast!”

Nepal’s Supreme Court will decide today whether an extended full Bench or a constitutional Bench should hear the case. There is also a legal and moral

issue in Chief Justice Cholendra Rana heading the Bench. Whether the House is restored or fresh elections held, the awe and might of the NCP will never be the same again. We may see two NCPs or the NCP could unravel into its previous avatars — the CPN UML and the CPN Maoist Centre. The division, it is noteworthy, has taken place more among the CPN UML (which has had three former Prime Ministers) than among the Maoists. The NCP has not split as neither Oli nor Prachanda want to be blamed for its bad optics. The Election Commission says that the Prachanda-Nepal faction, claiming to be the larger and original faction, has applied for ownership of the party’s symbol and name but it has not recognised the split as they are not registered as two parties. Despite the matter being *sub judice*, Oli has been publicly claiming that Parliament will not be restored even as four former Chief Justices have called the dissolution unconstitutional.

The primary mission now of the Chinese Communist Party and its versatile Ambassador Hou Yanqi is to prevent the formal split at all costs. Although both factions have spurned Chinese attempts to effect a compromise for the sake of party unity, Beijing’s wealth is a strong incentive for compliance. Still, while both the factions are China-leaning, the two separate entities of the NCP were also India-friendly. It was post-2015, and especially after 2017, that the Communist factions visibly tilted towards Beijing. During the civil war, the Chinese lampooned

the Maoists as “hijackers of Mao’s fair name” and called them “mischievous anti-State rebels” till they rocketed into power, with China conveniently recognising ideological congruence between them.

After Prachanda was forced to step down as the Prime Minister in 2008, he admitted that initially he thought China was required to balance India but later realised that India was more important for Nepal. Former Prime Minister Madhav Nepal used to be jokingly called Madhav India. In the power games that were ritually played out in Kathmandu, New Delhi’s blessings were invariably sought. Beijing, though a late entrant, assumed primacy after India’s marginalisation.

A fresh election is the best case scenario for democratic forces, especially the Nepali Congress which could emerge as the single largest party as it did in 2013 after Maoists were routed. New Delhi should have sound relations with all the parties but, most of all, with the people of Nepal. Seasoned Nepal-watchers in India are warning the Government against entertaining the opportunistic Oli and his caretaker Government and let the Nepalese deal with the political mess they have created. In other words, India should be an idle bystander. This is precisely what China wants India to do.

(The writer, a retired Major General, was Commander, IPKF South, Sri Lanka, and founder member of the Defence Planning Staff, currently the Integrated Defence Staff. The views expressed are personal.)

## SOUNDBITE

The Modi Government is not embarrassed when 60 farmers are martyred but is ashamed about the tractor rally by the farmers.



Congress leader  
Rahul Gandhi

The US political opportunism is recognised by those who are honestly concerned about the scourge of terrorism and its victims.



Cuban Foreign Minister  
Bruno Rodriguez

Objectification of women still exists, and often women are valued primarily for their looks. I think there is a conversation to be had over that.



Actor  
Keira Knightley

I literally cannot believe some of the rubbish I read about Steve Smith. Absolute load of rubbish. He is a bit quirky, he does some weird stuff.



Australian coach  
Justin Langer

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Incentivise girl students

Sir — Every State in India should follow in the footsteps of the Assam Government which has decided to give financial incentives to school-going girls. It will help encourage the girls to attend school, eventually increasing their attendance and enrolment ratio.

In many far-off places and rural areas, parents are still reluctant to send their daughters to school due to several reasons. Consequently, girls often fail to complete their schooling and are married off at an early age.

Illiterate women and girls are more vulnerable as they are unaware of their rights and privileges. If the girls are educated and financially independent, several unethical and illegal practices like dowry will come to an end. We need more social reformers like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, who can staunchly fight for the rights of women. Although Indian women have made a mark in every field, be it academics, bureaucracy, politics and so on, we still need to end gender discrimination at all cost.

Aman Jaiswal  
Delhi

### Govt should draft a national liquor policy

Deaths due to consumption of spurious liquor have become very common in India. In the recent tragedy, more than a dozen lives were lost in Madhya Pradesh’s Morena after drinking country-made liquor. In most cases, the police rounds up bootleggers and petty criminals who sell the liquor while real perpetrators of the crime walk away scot-free. It is because of the complicity of district-level officials in the business of illegal sale and purchase of hooch.

Ironically, mostly those who are from the lower rungs of society fall prey to the menace of illicit liquor. A lack of quality control while preparing country-made liquor results in many impurities and adulterants being present in it. This leads to serious organ damage or even the death of the person who consumes it.

The Government must come up with a national liquor policy and make stringent laws banning the manufacturing, sale and purchase of hooch. If illicit liquor is manufactured somewhere, the local district administration should also be held accountable. As of now, the legal drinking age in the country and the laws which regulate the sale and consumption of alcohol vary sig-



nificantly from State to State. Political patronage to the criminals involved in the business of illegal liquor is also one of the major causes that makes hooch business flourish. In turn, these criminals help politicians at the time of elections. There is also a need to break the nexus involving police, politicians and criminals involved in the illegal liquor trade.

Ganapathi Bhat  
Akola

### Expand expert panel

Sir — It’s not appropriate on the part of farmers’ unions to judge the expert panel set up by the Supreme Court (SC) on the basis of the previous stand of its members. The fact remains that they are experts on the subject. It is quite possible for the farmers to feel that the compo-

sition of the panel is heavily weighing against their interests. Perhaps the apex court should have taken onboard members having both for and against stands in equal numbers. In such a situation, there would be better amalgamation of thoughts to arrive at an amicable solution. The top court can still review this angle and expand the

panel by adding members who agree with the farmers’ views. When the SC has intervened, the farmers should wait and watch and take a break from dharna. Ultimately, both the Government and the farmers should reach a point where they are able to end the deadlock.

D Nagarjuna  
Hyderabad

### Ensure user privacy

Sir — As the furor over changes in WhatsApp’s privacy policy grows, a wide range of companies have started switching to the messaging platform Signal. This happened after the Facebook-owned company decided to continue with its new privacy policy.

In the coming days, common people will also move out of WhatsApp to other platforms and the company will receive a major setback. The companies in the field of social media must remember that the privacy of end users is of utmost importance and people are not willing for it to be compromised.

It is also high time for the Government to encourage young entrepreneurs to come up with alternatives to the WhatsApp platform. We should also avoid using such platforms where our privacy is not secure. Social media is an effective tool in our hands only if we are aware and cautious of our privacy breaches.

Bhagwan Thadani  
Mumbai

Send your feedback to:  
letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

# The future must be green

Our clean energy sector has been at the forefront of the country's fight against climate change, but is currently faced with liquidity constraints



DHRUBA **PURKAYASTHA**

India's energy sector is one of the fastest-growing in the world and has been attracting substantial investments. However, meeting the country's climate goals requires an increase in proportionate and transformative investments at the sectoral level. Given the current rate of penetration and the overall health of the economy which is bogged down by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is essential to find new and alternative ways of financing the transition and incentivising private industries' participation to scale-up investments in clean energy. This is because a huge corpus of funds is required for creating a sustainable impact in the field of green energy. Our clean energy sector has been at the forefront of the country's fight against climate change but is currently faced with liquidity constraints and supply chain disruptions due to the ongoing contagion. Addressing the growing needs of the nation while simultaneously taking steps to protect the environment, requires both international and domestic capital flow towards high-impact sectors. The latest report by the Climate Policy Initiative (CPI), gives us unique information about green finance trends in India by mapping finance from source to end users, thus helping us to know whether we are on the right track to meet the nation's economic and environmental goals. Such an exercise can also help us in identifying new avenues to ramp up our climate expenditure, mobilise new resources, build trust with investors besides bringing transparency and accountability in the governance of domestic public finance. The study reflects that green sectors are outpacing our overall Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth. For instance, green investments in India grew by 24 per cent between 2016 and 2018, whereas the GDP grew by only 7.4 per cent over the same period.

One of the major recipients of green finance in the country is the power generation industry (70 per cent), followed by energy efficiency (20 per cent) and sustainable transportation (10 per cent). Grants-in-aid and budgetary allocations are the most commonly used instruments by the Government to finance the area while loans by commercial banks are a major source of finance to private industries involved in green energy. Out of the total, 85 per cent of the clean energy finance is raised domestically, with Government finance sources being the backbone for strong private sector investment. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India, in the renewable energy sector, crossed the \$1 billion mark in 2018. While foreign underwriting plays a role, it is dwarfed by the contributions of the Indian Government, its agencies and domestic private markets. In the face of methodological constraints regarding defining and tracking green funding across its value chain in the country, it is a big challenge to procure granular data and apportion public, private, domestic and international investments. Further, lack of consensus on what constitutes "green" is especially acute in sectors like energy efficiency and power transmission.

Moreover, we are far short of the capital required to reach the nation's ambitious renewable energy and climate targets. India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) estimates that the country would need \$2.5 trillion between 2015 to 2030, an annual requirement of roughly \$170 billion per year to finance its climate action programmes. The nation's clean energy finance flows currently stand at around \$19 billion per annum. No doubt, there is a long way to go in order to create a sustainable and transformative impact.

So, what can be done? First, aspirations of a \$5 trillion economy by 2024 as well as an "atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India)" must be underpinned by green solutions. The renewable energy sector entails several benefits like providing safe and non-hazardous jobs, accelerated economic growth and so on. Hence we must turn towards the renewable energy sector for sustainable growth.

Second, Indian policymakers can look at various studies to assess whether they are using the best instruments to unlock private capital in priority social areas. Creating an integrated domestic measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) system to track green finance can be the first step towards identifying the entry points for dedicated action. A combination of climate budget tagging and MRV will form a strong foundation for the nation's climate investment strategy in the coming decades. Last, expenditure on climate mitigation activities undertaken by dedicated Public Sector Units (PSUs) more than doubled from 2017 to 2018. PSUs are important channels for the disbursement of funds for Central and State Governments, bond markets and international development agencies. They also operate as a critical source of green finance themselves through various public schemes and initiatives. Agencies such as the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency and the Solar Energy Corporation of India have helped to launch India as a renewable energy leader. Even in these dark times, we must believe that the country has a bright future. To make it true, that future must be green.

*(The writer is Interim India Director and Director, USICEF. The views expressed are personal.)*

SITA TOLD LORD RAM SHE WAS LUCKY TO BE ABDUCTED BY RAVAN AND NOT BY HIS CHELAS OR ELSE HER FATE WOULD HAVE BEEN THE SAME AS THE HATHRAS GIRL'S.

—TMC MP  
KALYAN BANERJEE



IT SEEMS KALYAN HAS AUGMENTED THE SLOGAN OF 'TMC HATAO BANGLA BACHAO' BY DRAGGING THE NAME OF MOTHER SITA AS PART OF TMC's POLITICS.

—VHP NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON  
VINOD BANSAL

# Don't expect a dignified exit

The infamy of a second impeachment is a fitting denouement of Donald Trump's presidency. If he were a man of honour or good sense, he would have quit



DEVENDER SINGH **ASWAL**

In a historic decision, the US House of Representatives which had initiated the process to impeach US President Donald Trump over the recent Capitol Hill attack — that was unprecedented in the country's history — passed a resolution urging Vice-President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment to remove the President from office. The resolution, which called upon Pence to mobilise the Cabinet to activate the 25th Amendment was voted by 223 to 205 votes. The voting was mostly on party lines, with one Republican voting in favour of the resolution and another five abstaining.

The 25th Amendment, adopted more than 50 years ago in the wake of President John F Kennedy's assassination, provides a mechanism for the succession of the President for his replacement in the event he proves unfit to serve. Under the amendment, the Vice-President and a majority of either the Cabinet or some other body designated by Congress may remove the President from office.

Wednesday's resolution came after Mike Pence wrote to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that he would not invoke the 25th Amendment. Earlier, the House Judiciary Committee Chairman Jerrold Nadler released a majority staff report for the impeachment of Trump. The 50-page report made a strong case to impeach the Republican President.

At a time like this, one cannot help but be reminded of the warnings issued by Mitt Romney, a Republican Senator. He had forewarned prophetically during the presidential campaign in March 2016 that Trump was a "fraud who had neither the temperament nor the judgement to be President."

Other elder Republican Senators like John McCain and Lindsey Graham, too, had warned against Trump becoming the President. During the campaign, Trump had threatened: "If I become President, the media is going to have a problem." He had gone on to describe the media as "among the most dishonest groups of people I have ever met."

In a February 2017 tweet, Trump, then the President, called the media the "enemy of the American people", a term, the critics noted then, was used by Stalin and Mao Zedong. It's intriguing that despite the complex electoral procedure established by the makers of the US Constitution to ensure that the office of the President does not "fall to men with low intrigue and the little arts of popularity", Trump was elected the 45th President of the country.

The shameful assault on the Capitol Hill, the seat of the US Congress, by the rioting supporters of Trump on January 6, when the Congress was in joint session to take count of the votes of the Electoral College, proved the proverbial last nail on his presidency. The premeditated violence was so egregious that even the Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell appealed to the lawmakers to finish the count in the wake of "the failed insurrection."

The votes were counted and the results were declared by Mike Pence, the ex-officio President of the Senate. Biden was declared elected,

“NO AMERICAN PRESIDENT HAS EVER BEEN REMOVED FROM OFFICE BY THE IMPEACHMENT PROCESS, AND NO PRESIDENT HAS BEEN IMPEACHED BY THE HOUSE MORE THAN ONCE. IMPEACHMENT PROCEEDINGS WERE LAUNCHED AGAINST FOUR PRESIDENTS, NAMELY, ANDREW JOHNSON (1868), RICHARD NIXON (1974), BILL CLINTON (1998) AND DONALD TRUMP (2019) BUT THE MOTIONS FAILED”



despite Trump hectoring: "Do it Mike, this is time for extreme courage."

Lawmakers, mostly Democrats and some Republicans, have accused Trump of "fomenting the violence with his relentless falsehoods" and want him impeached or removed. Albeit, a few days are left for the inaugural of the new presidency, yet Democrats and a considerable number of Republican leaders and officials want Trump to be removed from office before January 20. They accuse Trump of abuse of power to the effect that he "wilfully made statements that encouraged and foreseeably resulted in imminent lawless action at the Capitol."

The draft impeachment mentioned Trump's prior and consistent efforts to "subvert and obstruct" the results of the election and referenced his call to the Georgia Secretary of State asking him to find more votes after losing the State to Biden.

The draft went on to say: "Trump has falsely claimed there was widespread fraud in the election, and the baseless claims have been repeatedly echoed by congressional Republicans... President Trump gravely endangered the security of the United States and its institutions of Government... He threatened the integrity of the democratic system, interfered with the peaceful transition of power and imperiled a coordinate branch of the Government. He thereby betrayed his trust as President, to the manifest injury of the people of the United States."

Impeachment is not something which is new to Trump. He was

impeached by the House on December 18, 2019, on two counts: Abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. Of course, he was acquitted by the Republican, the Grand Old Party, (GOP)-controlled Senate on February 5, 2020. Yet, Trump faces the ignominy of a second unprecedented impeachment bid at the fag end of his presidency. Normally, there is an impeachment investigation by the House and the evidence is sent to the House Judiciary Committee, which holds hearings, drafts articles and sends them to the full House. The impeachment of Trump by the House in 2019 took three months.

However, this time, with so few days left, there was a feeling among Democrats that there was little need to investigate what happened, since most members of the Congress were in the Capitol Hill when the mob broke in.

Speaker Pelosi held a floor vote with no hearings or reference to the House Judiciary Committee. Now that the House has moved a resolution urging Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment to remove the President from office, the article and evidence would be sent to the Senate, where a trial would be held and there would be final votes to convict or acquit. It would outlast the tenure of Trump.

However, even now, many Republicans, even those who have criticised Trump, say impeachment would be unhelpful, as it would do "more harm than good." But Democrats and some Republicans, too, feel that: "It must be made clear that no President, now or in the future, can lead an insurrection against the US Government."

No American President has ever been removed from office by the impeachment process, and no President has been impeached by the House more than once. Impeachment proceedings were launched against four Presidents, namely, Andrew Johnson (1868), Richard Nixon (1974), Bill Clinton (1998) and Donald Trump (2019) but the motions failed.

Nixon resigned before the proceedings were launched. Legal experts are divided into three camps over the desirability or otherwise of the impeachments proceedings against Trump. According to one view, "A President can be impeached only while in office." Another opinion is that, if the House votes to impeach while the President is in office, the Senate can proceed to a trial even after the President has left office. And, a third view is that the entire process can begin even after the President is out of office. No President has ever been impeached after leaving office. But as the House Speaker, Pelosi, said: "Democrats will preserve every option" to force Trump from office, either through the 25th Amendment or impeachment. In the end, whether Trump is impeached or not, only time will tell. However, the infamy of a second impeachment is a fitting denouement of Trump's presidency. If he were a man of honour or good sense, he would have quit. But a dignified exit is not Trump's style of functioning. He will make a mess of it and go down fighting.

*(The writer is former Additional Secretary, Lok Sabha. The views expressed are personal.)*

# Good intentions are not enough, implementation is key

The Govt should regularly do a status check of the implementation status of schemes, and taxmen should be accommodative in their approach



SHSHANK **SAURAV**

Former President late Pranab Mukherjee had quoted Kautilya in his 2010 Budget speech highlighting the fact that financial prosperity depended on public affluence. Policy certainty is essential to bring financial prosperity to a nation and the ruling BJP promised this in its 2014 election manifesto. Bringing on board all State Governments for adopting the Goods and Services Tax (GST), addressing all their concerns, overhauling the dispute resolution mechanism and providing a non-adversarial and conducive tax environment were also part of the poll promise which the saffron party made in that election year.

To its credit, the Government made some notable structural reforms in the areas of indirect tax-

ation and insolvency cases. GST was the biggest-ever indirect tax reform in the country which helped in simplification and unification of the tax regime. As with all big changes, there were some teething problems in the implementation of GST but these were driven by shortcomings related to the information technology platform. Apart from this, the lackadaisical attitude of States regarding cracking down on tax evasion was coming from the fact that GST compensation was guaranteed by the Centre but the Coronavirus crisis changed the situation drastically. However, GST collection is increasing now after State Governments began taking action to check the revenue loss arising out of fake input tax credits.

Similarly, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) was a major shift in policy towards dealing with the bad loan crisis plaguing the country. Various cases have been successfully resolved under the IBC framework but this will be put to a tougher test now because various entities are facing financial stress due to the ongoing pandemic.

However, the Government's

track record in dealing with litigation is not impressive. The NDA Government unveiled the Transparent Taxation Rights Charter for Taxpayers in its second term which shows good intent on its part. Prior to this, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had proposed a Dispute Resolution Scheme (DRS) in 2016 to reduce tax litigation.

Though the infamous Vodafone retrospective tax amendment ghost which continues to haunt the Centre is a legacy issue, the Government's own record doesn't align with the promises made to taxpayers. Budgetary data show that direct tax collection has increased at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 10 per cent, while the amount under dispute has increased at a CAGR of 15 per cent.

The disputed amount has increased from ₹3,40,985 crore in 2014 to ₹8,02,621 crore in 2020 while direct tax collection has increased from ₹7,35,271 crore in 2014 to ₹13,19,000 crore in 2020. Since 2020 was an exceptional year due to the outbreak, tax collections are likely to be significantly less than the budgeted numbers. Therefore, tax collection CAGR will go down

even further. The real estate sector is one of the largest employment-generating ones in the country and new arrangements keep evolving in it. The Joint Development Agreement (JDA) is one such arrangement in which a landowner enters into an agreement with the developer and the owner of the plot gets his share in the constructed property after completion. There are many cases where an agreement was made but the building is yet to be constructed due to reasons ranging from delay in getting necessary approvals to lack of funds and so on.

In a nutshell, the landowner gets nothing except for an agreement on a piece of paper till the time the building is completed. However, the tax department has raised demand, interest and levied penalty on such transactions. Thankfully, the Government bought an amendment in 2017 to ensure that the taxman could tax such transactions only after the completion certificate was received. This was the right decision. But if taxmen have raised demands on the JDA where the building is not yet completed then isn't it unjustified?

The Government's role is not

just limited to bringing about changes in laws. It must ensure that these changes are implemented correctly on the ground. It is right to chase and penalise tax evaders but, if raising tax demands on transactions which are not yet crystallised is not "tax terrorism" then perhaps Government officials should redefine this term as per their convenience.

The Government launched the ambitious 'Vivad se Vishwas' (VSV) scheme in the last Budget with the intent to unclog the judiciary and realise the money locked in litigation. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) issued circulars for implementation of the scheme and the intent was to settle the disputes. But if field officers are not complying with the legislative intent to a large extent and many issues are not getting resolved, the Government is to be blamed squarely for this. Because it is not the bureaucracy who has to seek the mandate of the people every five years. And people see the faces of their elected representatives, not bureaucrats.

The VSV scheme had specified January 31, 2020, as the cut-off date for settlement of disputes. Successive

clarifications issued by the CBDT entitle a taxpayer to avail the scheme if the appeal period had not expired on January 31.

This means that the time to raise the dispute is still available in cases like tax orders not being served on the assessee or even if a delayed appeal is filed which is admitted by the tax department. However, many assesseees are allegedly awaiting communication from the department on the status of admission of their appeals. This is again a case of poor implementation of the well-intended scheme of faceless assessment/appeal.

A similar initiative called 'Sabka Vishwas' was launched in the previous year to settle indirect tax cases which received a lukewarm response. Though the Centre claimed that it had realised ₹39,000 crore from it, the Government received only around ₹15,000 crore because the rest of the amount was already pre-deposited by assesseees. In a nutshell, this scheme was not a success despite desperate calls made by the Government to people to avail it. VSV is a good scheme but the Government had to reach out to Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)

to file declarations under this scheme to avoid an embarrassing situation. If the mandarins sitting in the North Block didn't learn from the failure of Sabka Vishwas and now VSV, too, is going in the same direction, then the babus must be criticised for their myopic vision. There is no mechanism to take stock of how taxpayers' grievances are dealt with. If genuine issues are not resolved then people will approach courts with writ petitions. This will defeat the very purpose of such schemes.

Socio-political issues like farmers' agitation require use of political capital but resolving tax litigation and charting a clear path requires a vision and honest implementation on the ground. The road to a \$5 trillion-economy requires more than a noble intent and wishful thinking. The Government should regularly do a status check of the implementation status of schemes and laws and taxmen should be accommodative in their approach while implementing settlement schemes.

*(The writer is a Chartered Accountant and a public policy analyst. The views expressed are personal.)*



REMOVAL OF TRUMP FROM OFFICE

Pence asked to invoke 25th Amendment

**Washington:** The Democratic-controlled US House of Representatives, which is rushing ahead towards impeaching Donald Trump over the unprecedented Capitol Hill attack, has passed a resolution urging Vice President Mike Pence to invoke 25th Amendment to remove the president from office.

The resolution was voted by 223 to 205 votes on Tuesday night. The voting was mostly on party lines, with one Republican voting in favour of the resolution and another five abstaining. The resolution calls upon Pence to mobilise the Cabinet to activate the 25th Amendment to remove the president from office.

The 25th Amendment, adopted more than 50 years ago in the wake of President John F Kennedy's assassination, provides a mechanism for the succession of the president for his or her replacement in the event he or she proves unfit to serve. Under the amendment, the vice president and a majority of either the Cabinet or some other body designated by Congress may remove the pres-



ident from office.

The vote came after Pence, a Republican, wrote to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that he would not invoke the 25th Amendment.

"Under our Constitution, the 25th Amendment is not a means of punishment or usurpation. Invoking the 25th Amendment in such a manner would set a terrible precedent," Pence said in a letter to Pelosi, a Democrat.

Speaking on the House floor, Pelosi said on January 6, President Trump incited a deadly insurrection against America that targeted the very heart of its democracy, the US Capitol.

"Defiling the genius of the Constitution, separate but

equal, attacking the first branch of government, trying to prevent the US from ascertaining – the constitutional duty to ascertain that Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will be President and Vice President of the

United States.

"The gleeful desecration they have – gleeful desecration of the Capitol and violence against the Congress, our staff and our workers are horrors that will forever stain our

nation's history. Five Americans have died following the violent attack. More than 50 police officers were seriously injured, including fifteen officers who were hospitalised," Pelosi said. **PTI**

Free speech is under assault like never before: Trump

**Washington:** Free speech is under assault in the United States like never before, outgoing President Donald Trump said as almost all major social media outlets moved to block him following the breach of the Capitol Hill by his supporters.

In his first public speech on Tuesday after the January 6 storming of the US Capitol, Trump, in a Texas border town, addressed for the first time several issues, including impeachment proceedings against him, last week's incident itself and the call to invoke the 25th Amendment

to the US Constitution where-in he can be removed by his cabinet members.

"Free speech is under assault like never before. The 25th Amendment is of zero risk to me but will come back to haunt Joe Biden and the Biden administration. As the expression goes, be careful what you wish for," Trump said in his remarks at a border wall in Texas.

"The impeachment hoax is a continuation of the greatest and most vicious witch hunt in the history of our country and is causing tremendous anger and divi-

sion, and pain far greater than most people will ever understand, which is very dangerous for the USA, especially at this very tender time," he said.

Referring to last week's events, Trump said millions of Americans watched on as a mob stormed the Capitol and trashed the halls of the government.

"I have consistently said throughout my administration, we believe in respecting America's history and traditions, not tearing them down. We believe in the rule of law, not in violence or rioting," he said. **PTI**

Around the Globe

**Terre Haute (US):** A Kansas woman was executed on Wednesday for strangling an expectant mother in Missouri and cutting the baby from her womb, the first time in nearly seven decades that the US Government has put to death a female inmate.

**United Nations:** The UN and humanitarian partners in Afghanistan are seeking \$1.3 billion to assist almost 16 million people in need of life-saving assistance as a result of decades of conflict, recurrent natural disasters and the added impact of the continuing Covid-19 pandemic.

**Wellington:** Police said a man armed with an axe smashed the glass doors that form the main entrance to New Zealand's Parliament early on Wednesday but did not attempt to enter the building.

**Karachi:** Pakistan's restive Balochistan province saw 2,886 terrorist attacks and 3,184 related deaths in the last decade, according to a media report.

US cancels ambassador's controversial trip to Taiwan

AP ■ TAIPEI

The US State Department canceled the planned Taiwan visit by its UN ambassador that has drawn strong opposition and a warning from China.

The department announced it was canceling all senior-level overseas travels, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's planned trip to Belgium, in a decision to assist with the transition to the next administration.

US Ambassador to the UN Kelly Craft was due to begin a three-day visit Wednesday, which would have involved meetings with Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen and Foreign Minister Joseph Wu as well as delivering a speech.

Craft's trip was one of two moves in the twilight days of the Trump administration that

increases official exchanges with the self-ruled island while also provoking China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory.

The US and China have clashed on everything from the origins of the pandemic to Hong Kong. China had already warned the US would pay a "heavy price" in response to the planned visit.

It follows an announcement from Pompeo on Saturday that the US would remove longstanding restrictions on how its diplomats and others have contact with their Taiwanese counterparts.

Under the Trump administration and bipartisan support from Congress, relations with Taiwan has warmed up considerably, with the government increasing the frequency and quality of weapons sales to the island's government.

China says it'll defend self over UK Xinjiang labour measures

**Beijing:** China said on Wednesday that it would defend itself against a British government demand that companies ensure their supply chains are free from forced labour linked to the northwestern Chinese region of Xinjiang or face punishing fines.

The comment came after British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said officials have issued guidance to British firms with ties to Xinjiang on how to carry out due diligence checks.

The government intends

to exclude suppliers and review export controls to prevent the shipping of any goods that could contribute to such violations in Xinjiang, where China is accused of widespread rights violations against Uighurs and other Muslim minority groups.

China denies allegations of rights abuses and forced labour, saying it aims only to raise incomes among minorities and stamp out radicalism.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said China would "take all necessary measures to defend national

interests and dignity and firmly safeguard its sovereignty, security and development interests."

"Individual countries including the UK have funded, concocted and deliberately spread lies and rumours to smear and discredit China on the pretext of so-called human rights issues," Zhao told reporters at a daily briefing. "It fully exposes their hypocrisy and sinister intentions to curb the development and progress of Xinjiang and interfere in China's internal affairs." **AP**

Iran to hold missile drill in Gulf of Oman amid tensions

**Tehran:** Iran's navy was poised to begin a short-range missile drill in the Gulf of Oman on Wednesday, state TV reported, amid heightened regional tensions over Tehran's nuclear program and a US Pressure campaign against the Islamic Republic.

The two-day missile drill was to be held in the gulf's southeastern waters and two new Iranian-made warships were expected to join the exercise: The missile-launching Zereh, or "armor," and the Makran, a logistics vessel with a helicopter pad named after a coastal region in southern Iran.

President Donald Trump in 2018 unilaterally withdrew the US from Iran's nuclear deal, in which Tehran had agreed to limit its uranium enrichment in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. Trump cited Iran's ballistic missile program among other issues in withdrawing from the accord.

When the US Then ramped up sanctions, Iran gradually and publicly abandoned the deal's limits on its nuclear development as a series of escalating incidents pushed the two countries to the brink of war at the beginning of the year. **AP**

Intense Israeli airstrikes in east Syria said to kill dozens

**Beirut:** Israeli warplanes carried out intense airstrikes on eastern Syria early on Wednesday, apparently targeting positions and arms depots of Iran-backed forces. Dozens of fighters were killed or wounded, according to an opposition war monitor.

A senior US intelligence official with knowledge of the attack told The Associated Press that the airstrikes were carried out with intelligence provided by the United States — a rare incidence of publicised cooperation between the two countries over choosing targets in Syria. **AP**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform you that Late Shree Khushi Ram (Voter ID No. UP777387/0315215) S/o Late Shree Khairati R/o Village Parthala Khanpur Sector 122 Noida Dist: G.B. Nagar has a plot in Noida whose no. is Plot No PK-B 28 Sector-122 Noida is registered at sub registrar office 1st in Bahi No. 3, Jld No.673, at page no. from 257-274 on 27.12.2016 at serial no 2253. So above plot is being transferred to the name of Deepak Kumar Yadav (Adhar No. 794265691315) and Deepanshu Yadav (Adhar No. 880859165635) S/o Shree Satyaveer Singh Yadav R/o Village Parthala Khanpur Sector-122 Noida on the basis of registered will. So all related people is informed that if someone has any objection about transfer of above plot, then he submit his objection in Noida Authority Residential department with all document proof within 30 days from the publishing date of this information. Deepak Kumar Yadav

**UJVN LIMITED**  
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006  
Telephones: 0135 - 2763508, 2763808, Fax: 0135- 2763507  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866  
**पत्र सं. 34, Time Extension Notice-I दिनांक: 12.01.2021**  
**Name of Work:** Hiring of one no. 24 seater non AC Bus for 12 months.  
**In reference to e-Tender No. 13/EE/Klg/2020-21** invited by this office it is to inform that Time extension notice has been uploaded on e-procurement portal. Please quote your bids accordingly. For further details kindly log on to <http://www.uktenders.gov.in>. All other terms & conditions of tender shall remain unchanged.  
**Dates of the aforesaid tender are extended as below-**  
**Last Date/Time for receipt of bid in the portal** - 22.01.2021 up to 16:00 Hrs.  
**Last date of submission of original documents-** 23.01.2021 up to 16:00 Hrs  
**Date of opening of bid on the website** - 25.01.2021 at 11.00 Hrs  
**\*AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY\*** **Executive Engineer (Maint.)**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
It is inform to all concern that Sh. Gopiram S/o Late Mansa Ram R/o Village-Hulambi Kalan, Narela, Delhi, was the joint owner of Residential Plot No. C-02/32, Sector-31, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (UP).  
Sh. Gopiram has expired on 25-08-2019. He had executed a registered WILL pertaining to the h/s share in the above noted plot in favour of Sh. Shivam Gaur S/o Sh. Ranvir Singh R/o B-166, Sector-14, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (UP) vide WILL dated 03-11-2018, duly registered in the office of Sub-Registrar Gautam Budh Nagar (UP) in Book No. 3, Volume No. 1104, on Pages 397 to 410, at Document No. 2378 dated 03/11/2018.  
Now the above plot is going to be transferred through the above WILL in favour of Sh. Shivam Gaur S/o Sh. Ranvir Singh R/o B-166, Sector-14, Noida, Distt. Gautam Budh Nagar (UP). If anyone has any objection, he/she may file his/her objection along with the sufficient proof in the Residential Plot Department of Noida authority, Sector-6, Noida within 30 days from the date of publication of this notice.  
**Shivam Gaur**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**  
**OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE**  
The Sr. Divisional Engineer-III, Northern Railway, Delhi Division invites E-Tender for the following work.  

1 Name of work	Development of borewell and improvement of water supply system at SZM, ANDI, DBSI and PTNR in the section of SSEW/WDLI/Line under ADEN/DLI.
2 Approx. cost of work	Rs. 44,89,503.25 (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Eighty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Three and Paise Twenty five only)
3 Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 89,800/- (Rupees Eighty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Only)
4 Cost of tender document	Rs. 0/-
5 Date & Time of submission of tender bid and opening of tender	09.02.2021 @ 15:00 Hrs.
6 Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>

- The tenderer/s must be registered on the Indian Railway E-Procurement system (IREPS) site i.e. [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for participating in the e-tender system.
- For all terms and conditions please refer tender document.
- No manual offers are acceptable.
- Cost of tender document and Earnest money will be acceptable through net banking or payment gateway only.

**No. 128-W/280/e Tender Notice/NIT/34/2020-21/W-3 Dated : 13.01.2021**  
**93/2021**  
**SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE**

**WESTERN RAILWAY**  
**MULTI SECTION DIGITAL AXLE COUNTER AT FLOOD PUNE AREA**  
**E-Tender No. SG 217\_2\_284\_**  
**WA dated: 12.01.2021. Name of Work :** Part supply of material, execution installation, testing and commissioning of Multi Section Digital Axle Counter at Flood pune area of Vasai Road station of Mumbai Division of Western Railway.  
**Approx. Cost of Work :** Rs.5,47,81,118/-  
**Cost of Tender Form :** Rs. 10,000/-  
**Particular office where E-tender open :** Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer(S), 2nd Floor, Divisional Railway Manager's Office, Mumbai Central, Mumbai-400 008.  
**EMD :** Rs. 4,23,900/-  
**Time & Date for closure for submission of E-Tender Documents :** At 15.00 hrs. on 10.02.2021.  
**Time & Date for opening of E-Tender :** After 15.30 hrs. on 10.02.2021. The tender can be viewed at website [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in).  
**0570**  
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**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**  
  
General Public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Sakshi D/o Subir Sarki R/o H. No. 178, Near DTC BUS Terminal Azadpur, Delhi** has been missing since 29.12.2020. In this regard a **FIR No. 820/20 dated 30.12.2020** has been registered at PS, Adarsh Nagar, Delhi. The description of missing girl is as under:-  
**Name: Sakshi, Father's Name :** Subir Sarki, **Age :** 16 year, **Height :** 5'1", **Face :** Oval, **Complexion :** Wheatish, **Built :** Thin, **Wearing :** Pink Color Jacket, Pink Color Top and Blue Color Jeans & Pink Shoes in feet.  
If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned at following phone numbers.  
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
e-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641  
Extn.-210  
Fax: 011-24368639  
**SHO P.S., Adarsh Nagar, Delhi**  
**Ph. : 011-27674452, 27672452, 8750870233**  
**DP/595/NW/2021**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING BOY**  
  
General public is hereby informed that one boy **Namely: Mukesh, S/o Bhaiya Lal, R/o Jhuggi No. N-125/177/C-35, Satsang Colony, WPIA, Delhi. Age: 20 years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Thin, Wearing: Blue Colour Jacket, Light Blue Colour Jeans and Blue Spots**  
**Shoes in Feet has been missing since 21.12.2020.**  
In this regard a **DD No. 23A/20 dated 29.12.2020** has been lodged at P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi.  
Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this boy but no clue has come to light so far.  
Any person having any information or clue about this boy kindly inform to the following.  
**E-Mail: [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) SHO**  
**Website: <http://cbi.nic.in> P.S. Ashok Vihar, Delhi**  
**Fax: 011-24368639 Ph. 011-27243066, 8750870221**  
**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641 DP/573/NW/2021**

**PROCLAMATION REQUIRING THE APPEARANCE OF ACCUSED PERSON**  
**(See Section 82 Cr. P.C.)**  
Whereas complaint has been made before me that accused persons **Vijay Vats @ Nishu S/o Rajender Vats R/o H. No. 39, Kirari, Suleman Nagar, Delhi** and **Ravinder Vats @ Sonu S/o Ved Prakash R/o VPO Bohar (Melwan), Rohtak (Haryana)** have committed (or is suspected to have committed) the offence in case **FIR No. 651/19 u/s 354/354A/354D/34 IPC & 8/12 POCSO Act** dated 18.12.2019 registered at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi and it has been returned to a warrant of arrest thereupon that the said **Vijay Vats @ Nishu** and **Ravinder Vats @ Sonu** could not be found and where it has been shown to my satisfaction that the accused **Vijay Vats @ Nishu** and **Ravinder Vats @ Sonu** have absconded (or is concealing themselves to avoid the service of the said warrant). Proclamation is hereby made that the said accused **Vijay Vats @ Nishu** and **Ravinder Vats @ Sonu** are required to appear before the court to answer the said complaint on or before **18.02.2021**.  
**By Order Ms. Raj Rani, Addl. Sessions Judge (North-West), Room No. 203, Rohini Courts, New Delhi**  
**DP/604/RD/2021 (Court Notice)**

**Public Notice**  
Sarv Priya Mahajan Co-operative Group Housing Society Ltd. 202, Vardhman Avon Shopping Plaza, LSC, C-Block Market, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034.  
In pursuance to rule 19(2) of DCS rules, 2007, it is to inform publicly that following members of Sarv Priya Mahajan CGHS Ltd (Regd No.1384) have resigned from the membership of the society i.e., 1). Sh. Anil Kumar (M.No.536) 2). Sh. Rajeev (M.No.616) and Sh. Neeraj Gupta & Sanjay Gupta (M.No.566). Further they have been issued account payee cheque for their deposited amount. If anyone have any objection he/she may file his/her objection in the office of the R.O.S, Parliament Street, New Delhi or at society office i.e., 202, Vardhman Avon Shopping Plaza, LSC, C-Block Market, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura, Delhi-110034 within 7 days from the date of publication of the public notice.  
**Sd/- President/Secretary Sarv Priya CGHS Ltd**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
NOTICE is hereby given that Mr. Rahul R/o. Flat no. 354, L Block, Sector-9, New Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh is going to Purchase the property from Mrs. Rajabala as Flat No L-351, Ground Floor, Sec-9, Vijay Nagar, Ghaziabad, UP.  
While Registered GPA dated 15/03/2003 (Doc. No.390) executed by Mr. Sunil Kumar Madan to Mr. Ashok Tyagi and Sale Deed dated 17/04/2003 (Doc. No. 3461) executed By GDA through Mr. Sunil Kumar Madan to GPA holder Mr.Ashok Tyagi are lost.  
All person/s having any claim against or in respect of the said Property, or any part thereof, by way of sale, exchange, mortgage (equitable/ registered or otherwise), gift, trust, inheritance, family arrangement, maintenance, bequest, partnership, possession, lease, sublease, tenancy, license, lien, charge, pledge, easement or otherwise howsoever, are hereby requested to notify the same in writing to us with supporting documentary evidence at the address mentioned below within 7 days from the date hereof, failing which the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned and our client shall proceed with the disbursement of loan for purchase of the said Property and subsequent creation of mortgage in respect thereof.  
**Kamal Kant Gupta (Advocate)**  
**011-43052822, 9981006351**

FBI opens over 160 investigations against Capitol Hill rioters

**Washington:** The FBI has opened more than 160 investigations against the January 6 Capitol Hill rioters, officials said here, and asserted this is just the tip of the iceberg.

The agency has worked hand-in-hand with the United States Attorney's Office and law enforcement partners in DC and across the country to arrest and charge multiple individuals who took part in last week's breach of the US Capitol, FBI Washington Field Office Assistant Director In-Charge Steven M D'Antuono told reporters at a news conference.

"In six days, we have opened over 160 case files, and that's just the tip of the iceberg," he said, adding the FBI has received more than 1,00,000 pieces of digital media.

D'Antuono said the FBI will be knocking on the doors of the people who participated in the attack on the Capitol. "But before we do this, this is your opportunity to come forward as several individuals involved in Wednesday's riots

have done," he added.

In the weeks leading up to the January 6 rally, the FBI, D'Antuono said, developed some intelligence that a number of individuals were planning to travel to the DC area with intentions to cause violence.

This was immediately shared and action was taken as demonstrated by the arrest of Enrique Tarrio by the Metropolitan Police Department the night before the rally, he said.

Other individuals were identified in other parts of the country and their travel subsequently disrupted, D'Antuono noted.

Acting US Attorney for the District of Columbia, Michael Sherwin, said the scope and scale of the investigation in these cases are really unprecedented not only in FBI history but also probably in the history of the Department of Justice in which the Capitol grounds outside and inside are essentially crime scenes. **PTI**

Estonia's PM resigns over corruption scandal in his party

**Helsinki:** Estonia's Prime Minister has handed in his resignation to the Baltic country's president after a corruption scandal investigated by the police and prosecutors in his Centre Party led to key party officials resigning overnight.

The move automatically prompts the resignation of Estonia's three-party coalition government.

Estonian Prime Minister Juri Ratas said early Wednesday on his Facebook page that he would step down as "the suspicion expressed by the Public Prosecutor's Office .... Does not mean that someone is definitely guilty but they will inevitably cast a serious shadow over all those involved".

"In such a situation, it seems only right that, by resigning myself, I will give the opportunity to shed light on all the facts and come to clarity," Ratas wrote on Facebook.

Ratas said he personally has not done anything wrong. **AP**

US Covid-19 deaths hit another one-day high at over 4,300

**Washington:** Coronavirus deaths in the US hit another one-day high at over 4,300 with the country's attention focused largely on the fallout from the deadly uprising at the Capitol.

The nation's overall death toll from COVID-19 has eclipsed 380,000, according to Johns Hopkins University, and is closing in fast on the number of Americans killed in World War II, or about 407,000. Confirmed infections have topped 22.8 million.

With the country simultaneously facing a political crisis and on edge over threats of more violence from far-right extremists, the US recorded 4,327 deaths on Tuesday by Johns Hopkins' count. Arizona and California have been among the hardest-hit states.

The daily figure is subject to revision, but deaths have been rising sharply over the past 2 1/2 months, and the country is now in the most lethal phase of the outbreak yet, even as the vaccine is being rolled out. **AP**

SALE NOTICE	
Where in mentioned Assets will be sold through auction on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS" and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" for recovery of dues as per court orders, in the following cases:-	
Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI Bank Vs Ram Sewak, CS No. 68/2020 (1934/ 19)	Vehicle No- UP14FT7944, Make and Model- CHEVROLET SAIL PS, Year- 2016
ICICI Bank Vs Punit CS 900/2019	Vehicle No- HR55AA9780, Make and Model- KUV 10 K4 PLUS D, Year- 2016
ICICI Bank Vs Sanjeev Kumar, CS (COMM) 2338/ 19	Vehicle No- DL1ZB2383, Make and Model- SAIL LS, Year- 2017
ICICI Bank Vs Arun Gupta, CS 20237/ 16	Vehicle No- UP14CY4735, Make and Model- HYUNDAI I 20 MAGNA 1.4, Year- 2016
CICI Bank Vs Bharat Miglani, CS SCJ 1152/ 18	Vehicle No- HR51BP8125, Make and Model- DATSUN GO T, Year- 2017
ICICI Bank Vs Vipul Goel, CS No. 44/ 18	Vehicle No- UP14CK1886, Make and Model- SANTRO GL PLUS, Year- 2014
ICICI Bank Vs Subodh Kumar, 3180 of 17	Vehicle No- UP14FT7914, Make and Model- TATA INDIGO ECS VX, Year- 2006
ICICI Bank Vs Ass. Mohd. CS (COMM) NO 1325/ 19	Vehicle No- UP14GT8009, Make and Model- HYUNDAI XCENT VTVT PRIME T+ CNG, Year- 2018
ICICI Bank Vs Dheeraj Singh, 16 of 18	Vehicle No- UP16BH1700, Make and Model- MARUTI CIAZ SHVS VDI, Year-2016
ICICI Bank Vs Saksham Kathuria, CS NO 1791/ 2018	Vehicle No- UP16DT8933, Make and Model- XCENT, Year- 2016
ICICI Bank Vs Chand Saifi, Case No- 6/ 18.	Vehicle No- UP16ET2968, Make and Model- NISSAN GO T, Year- 2016
ICICI Bank Vs Rakesh Batra, Suit No 470/ 17	Vehicle No- DL3CCM1900, Make and Model- BENZ E350 CDI, Year- 2009
ICICI Bank Vs Naseem Ahmed, CS (Comm) No. 1989/ 2019	Vehicle No- DL3CCM0916, Make and Model- MARUTI SWIFT VDI (O), Year- 2017
ICICI Bank Vs Mukesh Kumar, CS (COMM) No. 1016 of 20	Vehicle No- HR55AG4069, Make and Model- HYUNDAI XCENT VTVT PRIME T+ CNG, Year- 2019

**Auction Date :** January 29, 2021, Timing: 11:00AM to 1:00 PM  
**Venue:** Godara Yard, Khewat No: 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhrail, Gurugram- 122022.  
**Contact Person-** Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/Jitendra Kumar (7304914763) And auction of below mentioned one vehicle will be conducted at Shriram Automall- Narela.  

Case Details	Asset Details
ICICI Bank Vs Raheesuddin, CS (Commercial) No. 2875/ 2019	Vehicle No- UP14HT0654, Make and Model- AL DOST, Year- 2018

**Auction Date :** January 29, 2021, Timing: 11:00AM to 1:00 PM  
**Venue:** Shriram Automall, Vill- Mamurpur, Pio Maniyari Road Narela, New Delhi, Narela, Delhi, 110040.  
**Contact Person-** Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)  
**Terms of Sale**  
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves /itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids.  
Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount within 5 days from the approval date by the way of pay order/demand draft/ RTGS/NEFT.  
The intending bidders may visit at **ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Centre, Plot No-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi- 110085**, for details and inspection of the said hypothecated vehicle.



# Economic activity continues on normalisation: Report

FY21 GDP to contract 6.7%

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Economic activity continued with its pace of normalisation and the festivities helped narrow the deficits as compared to the year-ago period in December, a Japanese brokerage said on Wednesday. Based on data shown by its proprietary models, Nomura also revised up wits FY21 GDP forecast to a contraction of 6.7 %, as against the official estimate of a 7.7% contraction in the pandemic-impacted fiscal year.

The Nomura India Monthly Activity Indicator rose to -2.3% in December provisionally when compared to the year-ago period's performance, and was much better than the -7.7% year-on-year witnessed in November and -13.3% in September, it said. The brokerage said this suggests a "strong recovery" in Q4. "The pandemic situation did not substantially deteriorate in the festive season in December quarter, clearing the decks for a faster pace of economic normalisation," it said. "We expect GDP growth of -6.7 per cent y-o-y in FY21, before rising to 13.5 per cent in FY22, above consensus (10 per cent).

## 'GDP may clip at just 6 pc in FY22 if vaccine distribution is delayed'

PTI ■ MUMBAI

A delay in Covid-19 vaccine distribution could impact GDP growth prospects in the next fiscal year and the Reserve Bank may cut policy rates by 50 basis points by June as inflation cools down, a foreign brokerage said on Wednesday. BofA Securities said it expects GDP growth at 9 per cent in 2021-22 if the vaccine distribution is done in the first half of the new fiscal year but may be just at 6 per cent if the distribution is deferred to the second half (October-March). For the current financial year, it expects GDP to con-

tract by 6.7% as against the government's estimate of 7.7 % contraction. It can be noted that a slew of policy measures have been taken in the recent past including deep rate cuts, which had to be halted because of a surge in inflation to beyond the upper end of the range set for RBI. Speaking to reporters a day after official data suggested a sharp cool-down in the consumer price inflation to 4.6 per cent in December after being consistently above 6 per cent, its India economist Indranil Sen Gupta said BofA expects the RBI to cut rates by 50 basis points by June before it starts hiking them again.

**The Executive Engineer, W.R Division No-II, 3rd Floor, P. N. Complex, Gurkhabasti, Agartala Tripura, invites e-EOI against project NIEOI No 02/EE/WRD-II/2020-21 \*Dated 06-01-2020**

The Executive Engineer, Water Resource Division No-II, invites e-Expression of Interest on behalf of the "GOVERNOR OF TRIPURA" from original equipment manufacturer or their authorized Indian Agents/Multi-national companies and their joint ventures/Firms etc. having three years experienced of similar nature of work and interested bidders for "Operation, Maintenance of Dredger and De-siltation of Rudrasagar lake, under PWD(WR), by using Department's amphibian multi functional dredger, Water Master Classic-IV dredger machine".

This is an invitation for e-expression of interest open to original equipment manufacturer or their authorized Indian Agents/Multi-national companies and their joint ventures/Firms etc having three years experienced of similar nature of work.

Last date of e-bidding document downloading & Uploading is **10-02-2021 upto 3.00 P.M. in website <https://tripuratenders.gov.in>.**

For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in> vide tender I.D:-.....or contact with the O/o the bid inviting authority Ph No: 9436460131/700547625.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
W.R. Division No-II  
3rd Floor of Khadya Bhavan, P.N. Complex,  
Gurkhabasti, Agartala,  
West Tripura

### Eastern Coalfields Limited

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works & Services are available on i) Website of Coal India Limited: [www.coalindia.in](http://www.coalindia.in), ii) Website of ECL: [www.easterncoal.nic.in](http://www.easterncoal.nic.in), iii) CIL e-Procurement Portal: <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in>, iv) Central Public Procurement Portal: <https://eprocure.gov.in>. In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal: <https://gem.gov.in>".  
(By Order), ECL

**UJVNL Limited**  
H.O.: "Ujjwal", Maharani Bagh, GMS Road, Dhradhun-248006  
Telephone : 0135-2763808; Fax: 0135-2763508  
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website : [www.ujvnll.com](http://www.ujvnll.com)

**Ro. No. 41 e-Tender Notice Dated: 13/01/2021**  
Office of the EE (E&M),Asan Barrage, Dhakrani invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:  
e-NIT No. 09/EE(E&M)/Asan Barrage/2020-21  
Name of Supply : Procurement of safety and security equipment .  
Estimated Cost : Rs. 6,50,000.00 (GST extra)  
Date of availability of bid document on website: 12/01/2021  
Last date for submission of bids on website: 03/02/2021 upto 17:00 Hrs  
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal" <http://uktenders.gov.in>  
**Executive Engineer(E&M)**  
"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

Along with the moderation in inflation in the short term due to lower food prices, we believe the economy is entering a Goldilocks period," it said. It can be noted that earlier in the day, analysts at its American peer BofA Securities also pegged the GDP to close FY21 with a contraction of 6.7%.

The Japanese brokerage said an index which it uses as a proxy for the extent of normalisation across the economy suggests economic activity continued to improve during December. At the end of the festive season, the overall normalisation index for consumption improved to 88.3% in December as against 87% in November and 85% in October, it said. For passenger cars, two-wheelers and tractors, the normalisation index readings are higher than their respective pre-pandemic levels while on the investment front, the index is trending at 93%, which is 3 percentage points below pre-pandemic levels, it said.

# Sensex snaps 3-day winning streak; M&M soars 6 pc

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Snapping its three-day record-setting run, the BSE Sensex closed marginally lower after a choppy session on Wednesday as investors pocketed gains in banking and finance stocks amid mixed global cues.

Participants also kept their powder dry ahead of some key corporate results, traders said. After gyrating over 721 points during the day, the 30-share BSE index ended 24.79 points or 0.05 per cent lower at 49,492.32. It scaled a record intra-day peak of 49,795.19.

The broader NSE Nifty inched up 1.40 points or 0.01 per cent to its fresh closing record of 14,564.85. The index touched a lifetime high of 14,653.35 during the day. M&M was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 6.24 per cent, followed by SBI, ITC, NTPC, Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finance, HDFC, Bajaj Finserv, Titan, Sun

Pharma and Dr Reddy's were among the laggards, tumbling up to 2.85 per cent.

According to Binod Modi, Head-Strategy at Reliance Securities, domestic equities were volatile and gave-up early gains as profit booking was visible in a large number of stocks.

"While contraction in November 2020 IIP data indicates more measures by FM in the budget to stimulate economic activities, better than anticipated softening in CPI data for December 2020 negates the looming concerns over low interest rate scenarios.

"We continue to believe that that a sharp rebound in high frequency key economic data for December 2020 indicates demand revival, which bodes well for the markets. Further, 3Q FY21 corporate earnings are progressing well and are expected to sustain growth, which along with weak dollar and soft monetary policy of global bankers should continue to attract FPIs into domestic equities," he said.

Rupee firms up 10 paise to finish at 73.15 against US dollar

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The Indian rupee strengthened gains for the second straight day and closed 10 paise higher at 73.15 against the US dollar on Wednesday, tracking upbeat Asian currencies and sustained foreign fund inflows.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 73.16, and hit an intra-day high of 73.10 and a low of 73.23. It finally finished at 73.15, higher by 10 paise over its last close.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, rose 0.07 per cent to 90.15.

Sandeep Aggarwal appointed TEPC chairman

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Sandeep Aggarwal will be the new Chairman of the Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council (TEPC) which has been set up by the Government of India to promote and develop export of Telecom Equipment and Services. Aggarwal, who is the Managing Director and Promoter of Delhi-based Paramount Communications Ltd., a leading cable manufacturer, was elected TEPC's new Chairman on Tuesday.

He will take over from Shyamal Ghosh, ex-Telecom Secretary.

Mallya denied permission to appeal in UK bankruptcy case

**London:**Liquor tycoon Vijay Mallya was on Wednesday denied permission to appeal against a UK High Court order refusing to dismiss bankruptcy proceedings brought by a consortium of Indian banks led by the State Bank of India (SBI), in their pursuit of debt related to his now-defunct Kingfisher Airlines. The 65-year-old businessman, who remains on bail in the UK, had filed a renewed application to appeal against UK court orders in the case from last year, which had allowed for an adjournment of bankruptcy proceedings until the debt issue before the Supreme Court in India was decided upon. *PTI*

RBI sets up panel to suggest measures for promoting digital lending

**Mumbai:**Amid rising incidents of harassments relating to online lending, the Reserve Bank on Wednesday constituted a working group to suggest regulatory measures to promote orderly growth of digital lending.

The RBI said that the recent spurt and popularity of online lending platforms/mobile lending apps has raised certain serious concerns which have wider systemic implications.

"Against this backdrop, a Working Group (WG) is being set up to study all aspects of digital lending activ-

ities in the regulated financial sector as well as by unregulated players so that an appropriate regulatory approach can be put in place," the central bank said. The working group, chaired by RBI Executive Director Jayant Kumar Dash, will consist of both internal and external members, and submit its report within three months.

The internal other members are, Ajay Kumar Choudhary (CGM-in-Charge, Department of Supervision, RBI), P Vasudevan (CGM, Department of Payment and Settlement Systems) and Manoranjan Mishra.

## Hike in petrol, diesel rates after global oil price jump

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

Petrol and diesel prices rose sharply by 25 paise per litre on Wednesday after oil marketing companies decided to break the momentary pause in the wake of a sudden spike in the global oil prices.

Accordingly, in the national capital, petrol was sold at the new record high level of Rs 84.45 from the previous days of Rs 84.20 a litre while diesel price increased to Rs 74.63 per litre as against Rs 74.38 a litre

earlier. Across the country as well the pump price of petrol and diesel increased on Wednesday but the quantum varied depending on the prevailing tax structure in each state. Auto fuel price rise was on hold for the last five days after the petrol and diesel prices had increased on two successive days last Wednesday and Thursday taking gasoline to record high levels in Delhi while keeping its prices very close to record high levels in other metro cities.

## Indian Railway Finance Corp's ₹4,600 cr IPO opens next week

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

The initial public offering (IPO) of Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC), worth over Rs 4,600 crore, will open on January 18 and close on January 20. The price band of the IPO will be of Rs 25-26 per share.

"IRFC coming up for listing with a Rs 4600 cr+ issue in a price band of Rs 25-26 per

share. Anchor book on January 15 and the Main book from January 18-20," said Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Secretary, Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) on Twitter.

Established in 1986, the dedicated financing arm of the Indian railways is a public sector enterprise under the administrative control of the Ministry of Railways.

**SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED**

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely **Richa Jain D/o Shobaag Jain R/o 1540B Gali No. 11, Jain Nagar, Karala, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS: Begumpur, Delhi since 25.12.2020. In this regard, a case **DD No. 38A Dated 25.12.2020 has been registered at P.S. Begumpur, Delhi.** The description of the missing girl are as under.  
**Age:** 20 Years, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Height:** 5' 6", **Face:** Round, **Hair:** Black & Long, **Wearing:** Black colour suit-salwar and cream colour jacket. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/ kidnapped girl then please inform PS: Begumpur, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: **cic@cbi.gov.in** and Website: **http://cbi.nic.in**, providing clue about the missing girl.  
**Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**Fax No. 011-24368639**



**RICHA JAIN**

**Sd/- SHO**  
**PS: Begumpur, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 8750870326**

**DP/602/RD/2020**

**SEARCH OF MISSING**

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), **Namely: Soni, D/o: Sh. Sheshnath, R/o: E-160, JJ Colony, Shakurpur, Delhi Aged: 18 years 7 monthsh,** has been missing since 30.12.2020 from the area of PS Subhash Place, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 32A, Dated 30.12.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi.** Her physical description is as under:  
**Height:** 5'2" Feet, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Build:** Strong, **Clothing:** Grey Colour Suit and Salwar..  
Any person is having any information/clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Subhash Place, Delhi. at **E-mail: [cic@cbi.gov.nic.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.nic.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641**



**Soni**

**S.H.O**  
**P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi**  
**Ph.: 011-27356336, 27353014, 8750870224**

**DP/596/NW/2021.**

**MODI RUBBER LIMITED**  
CIN: L25199UP1971PLC003392,  
**Registered Office:** Modinagar - 201204; Dist. Ghaziabad, (U.P.)  
**Corporate Office:** 4-7C, DDA Shopping Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi-110025; Website: [www.modirubberlimited.com](http://www.modirubberlimited.com)  
Email: [investors@modigroup.net](mailto:investors@modigroup.net); Phone: +91-11-47107398

**NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given that the Company is processing for issuance of duplicate Share Certificates in pursuance of intimation about the loss of shares certificates having the following particulars:-

S. No.	Name of the Shareholders	Folio No.	No. of Shares	Certificate No.	Distinctive No.
1.	SANKARARAMAN STHANUNATHAN AND S.S.STHANUNATHAN	S00606	366	11539-40 59432-33 166415-16 2304015-16	5234351-4450 7663421-3486 14491365-1464 21837465-7654

Public is cautioned against purchasing or otherwise dealing with the above mentioned share certificates. A Duplicate thereof will be issued to the shareholders, unless any objection is received by the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice.

**For Modi Rubber Limited**  
**Sd/-**  
**(S K Bajpai)**  
**Place : New Delhi**  
**Date : 13.1.2021**  
**Head-Legal & Company Secretary**

# Delhi-NCR residential sales grow 43% in Oct-Dec, says JLL

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

The National Capital Region (NCR) witnessed a quarter-on-quarter growth of 43 per cent in the sale of housing units during the October-December period on the back of festive discounts, low interest rates and some premium launches by established developers, said a JLL report. However, sales are yet to reach the pre-Covid levels witnessed in 2019, it said.

Noida continued to dominate sales with 45 per cent share of overall sales in Delhi-NCR, followed by Ghaziabad, which contributed 31 per cent of the total sales.

The residential market also rebounded with some prominent new launches. In Q4 2020, new launches more than tripled when compared to the last quarter. Majority of the launches were recorded in Gurugram, which accounted for 61 per cent of the new launches followed by Noida which contributed 24 per cent of the launches.

"Homebuyers are increasingly becoming more confident about returning to the market. Site visits and enquiries from prospective buyers have been increasing consistently, driven primarily by end-users who are keen in ready-to-move-in projects and newly launched projects by established developers," said Manish Aggarwal, Managing Director, Delhi NCR, JLL India.

The report also noted that the quarter also witnessed the launch of plotted developments and individual floors by prominent developers. While prices remained range-bound across all the submarkets, developers are offering freebies and attractive payment terms to serious homebuyers.

Overall, residential property sales across the top seven markets in the country rose by 51 per cent as compared to Q3 2020. It is important to note that this improvement has been holistic with seven key residential markets showing an uptick in sales.

## INBRIEF

**WIPRO REPORTS 21% GROWTH IN Q3 NET PROFIT**  
**Mumbai:** IT major Wipro on Wednesday reported 20.85% growth in its consolidated net profit for the October-December quarter at ₹ 2,968 cr. The company had reported a net profit of ₹2,455.9 crore during the corresponding period of the last fiscal (FY2019-20). Its revenue increased 1.3% during the period under review to ₹15,670 crore. Thierry Delaporte, CEO and Managing Director said: "Wipro has delivered a second consecutive quarter of strong performance on order booking, revenue and margins. Five of our sectors grew over 4% sequentially." "We closed our largest ever deal win in Continental Europe. The demand environment is steadily improving, especially for digital transformation, digital operations, and cloud services. I am also pleased to share with you that we have moved into our new organization structure and are stabilizing quickly," the CEO said.

**SCOPE EMINENCE AWARDS 2019-20 LAUNCHED**  
**New Delhi:** Honouring the unremitting efforts of public sector as nation builders and catalysts for social transformation in the country, Standing Conference of Public Sector Enterprises (SCOPE) launched 'SCOPE Eminence Awards 2019-20.' These awards are part of SCOPE's commitment to honour the outstanding contribution of the Public Sector Enterprises to the economy at large. Among the most coveted awards recognizing outstanding contribution in PSEs, SCOPE awards have been presented by Hon'ble President of India in the past.

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

Case Details	Asset Details	Reserve Price	EMD Amount (10% of reserve price)
ICICI Bank Vs Sunil Kumar, CM (M) 228/ 2020	Vehiclle No- DL3CCA2916, Make and Model- SWIFT VDI, Year- 2014	1,80, 000/-	18,000/-
ICICI Bank Vs Vikash., 225/ 2020	Vehiclle No- HR38V/6041, Make and Model- HYUNDAI XCENT BASE CRDI, Year- 2015	64,000/-	6,400/-
ICICI Bank Vs Ankit Bhadana, CM (M)- 231/ 2020	Vehiclle No- HR38V/7561, Make and Model- XCENT, Year- 2015	80,000/-	8,000/-
ICICI Bank Vs Kulvinder Singh, Fao 213/ 2015	Vehiclle No- Unregister, Make and Model- ERTIGA, Year- 2012	1,40, 000/-	14,000/-
ICICI Bank Vs Jitendra Chaturvedi, CM (M) 22/ 2020	Vehiclle No-UP14FT/7814, Make and Model- SAIL UVA LT, Year- 2016	64,000/-	6,400/-
ICICI Bank Vs Amit Kuril, 06 of 18	Vehiclle No- HR51AL/7799, Make and Model- FABIA ACTIVE 1.2 MPI, Year-2010	35,000/-	3,500/-

**Auction Date :** January 29, 2021 from 11AM-2PM  
**Venue:** Godara Yard, Khewat No: 166/1, Near Atul Kataria Chock, Behind Gyan Devi School, Sec-17, Sukhrail, Gurugram- 122022.  
**Contact Person-** Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)  
**EMD:** DD/PO of EMD amount to be made in favour of ICICI Bank Limited, payable at Delhi.  
**Contact Person-** Rajeev Ranjan (8584874809)/ Jitendra Kumar (7304914763)  
**Terms of Sale**  
The particulars of the said asset specified herein above have been stated to the best of the information and knowledge of the undersigned, who shall however not be responsible for any error, misstatement or omission in the said particulars. The interested participant/s are therefore requested, in their own interest, to satisfy himself / themselves / itself with regard to the said asset and other relevant details pertaining to it before submitting the bids. All bidders are required to come at site with original DD/PO of EMD amount along with original KYC proofs to participate in the auction.  
Successfully approved bidder shall have to deposit sale amount (Excluding EMD amount) within 5 days from the auction date by the way of pay order/demand draft/RTGS/NEFT. In case if you fail to make the remaining sale amount within 5 days, your EMD amount will be forfeited. The intending bidders may visit at ICICI Bank Ltd, 1st Floor, SD Tower, Community Centre, Plot no-7, Rohini Sector-8, New Delhi-110085. For details and inspection of the said by photocopied vehicle.

**SEARCH FOR MISSING**

The general public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Priyanka D/o Ramesh Kumar R/o 305, Income Tax Colony, Pitampura, Delhi** has been missing since 03.01.2021 from her house at around 2:30 p.m. In this regard, **DD No. 06A, dated 04.01.2021 has been registered at PS Maurya Enclave, Delhi.** Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the missing girl, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the missing girl is as under:  
**Name:** Priyanka, **Gender:** Female, **Age:** 19 years, **Height:** 5'2", **Face:** Oval, **Complexion:** Fair, **Build:** Thin, **Wearing:** Blue & white colour top, white colour jacket, white colour jeans and black colour shoes on her feet.  
If anyone has any information regarding this missing girl, kindly inform SHO/Maurya Enclave, Delhi.



**Priyanka**

**E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)**  
**Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**Fax : 011-24368639**  
**DP/586/NW/2021**

**SHO**  
**P.S. Maurya Enclave, Delhi,**  
**Ph. No. 011-27322353, 27314426**



## Trend Blazer

### Cyrus challenged his fears in Manali

Actor-anchor **CYRUS SAHUKAR** challenged his fears in Manali, and he says the outcome was a meditative and relaxed feeling. "It was an incredible experience being in Manali after months of lockdown. To be in such a beautiful setting, hanging with (actor) Amol (Parashar) and doing all these adventure activities was a magnificent experience for me," Cyrus said. "The best moment was

canyoning down the waterfall as I had never done that before. It was super scary, yet there was something very calm about it. It was almost like after you get over your fears, there's a meditative and relaxed feeling that you get," he added. Cyrus went to Manali to host the reality series *Feelin Alive Season 2*.

Actor **KAJOL** shared a hilarious way to avoid all things that make her fat, and fans sure are amused. On Instagram stories, she shared a post that read: "I've decided I'm ignoring all the things that make me fat...Mirrors, Scales, Opinions..." She is currently gearing up for the release of her next film, the Renuka Shahane-directed women-centric digital release, *Tribhanga: Tedhi Medhi Crazy*.

The film, written and directed by Shahane, also features Tanvi Azmi and Mithila Palkar. It is a family drama about three distinct women, and their unconventional life choices.

## SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Manisha D/o Shatrudhan Mukhiya R/o H. No. WZ-333, Shakurpur Village, Delhi Aged- 16 Years** has been registered missing since 27.10.2020 at 11:00 AM from the area of P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi vide **FIR No. 472/20 U/s 363 IPC Dated 28.10.2020** has been lodged at Police Station Subhash Place, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-  
**Complexion:** Fair, **Height:** 4'9", **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Oval, **ID:** burn mark on forehead, **Wearing:** Black coloured suit, yellow coloured dupatta and Purple coloured slipper in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Subhash Place, Delhi at E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in) or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
Sd/-  
Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Subhash Place, Delhi  
Fax: 011-24368639 Tel.: 011-27356336  
DP/575/NW/2021 Mob.: 8750870224

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Rohit, S/o Chandrika Manjhi, R/o H.No. RZ-418, Gali No. 7, Karan Vihar, Part-I, Kirari, Delhi, Age: 16 Years, Height: 5'4", Complexion: Fair, Face: Round, Built: Thin, wearing Green & White colour Sweater and Black colour Pajama**, has been missing from his house since 23.12.2020 In this regard a **FIR No. 627/2020 U/S 363 IPC, Dated 26.12.2020** has been lodged at **P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out the boy but no clue has come to light so far. If any one having any information about him person, please inform undersigned.  
Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>  
E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph. No. : 011-24368638, 24368641 **P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi**  
DP/605/RD/2021 **Ph.: 011-27581812, 27581223**



## Live outside the box

As long as there is a demand for affordable accommodation in cities, co-living will continue to be a lucrative business for brands, creating opportunities and a better way of living, even amid a pandemic

There are many myriad disruptive start-up ideas that have exploded in the Indian living ecosystem, especially if we look into the real estate sector. In the recent years, only a few of them have made the kind of impact that co-living has. The idea of co-living has been embraced by the present generation wholeheartedly with arms wide open. It has become an obvious answer to the age-old concern of affordable housing. The utility of shared living spaces is set in motion to find its way into the urban millennial headspace.

During the initial two lockdowns, many people spent months in isolation and some of them within their limited support bubble. This further resulted in starved human connection, urging people to look for more ways to socially engage than ever before. The young workforce was seen and even looking forward to build social connections even in their own buildings. The pandemic came as realisation that there is a necessity of organised purpose-built co-living accommodation and the objective being to disrupt the PG (accommodation) market, which is highly unorganised and is poorly managed, with least or no COVID-19 protocols in place. Hassle-free living sounded like a distant dream a few years ago. The shared economy concept has now percolated all aspects of society, giving rise to unprecedented disruptions along with the creation of new opportunities. It is important to note that the driving force for co-living in the market is not just the lack of available spaces or cramped living, but also flexibility and affordability, aspira-

tions of the present generation, the breakthrough technological innovation and the digital economy.

Predominantly focussed at millennials and working professionals, without an age limit, co-living aims to build an instant community for those looking for open-minded friendships. It also intends to facilitate an opportunity to live in the main business and commercial areas of the city that would usually be highly expensive in the otherwise traditional private rented set up. Because of millennials contributing to the larger share of the population, the requirement of the hour is to have affordable, organised and thoughtfully planned communities that will lead to disruption in the market and resolve the purpose-built co-living solutions for this constantly growing segment of target consumers.

### The way of living will become affordable and better organised

Co-living enables residents to dwell in a sociable environment and to take the benefits of a much wider variety of facilities than the ones that would be available to them in an individual apartment or flat share. If we look beyond the numbers, it becomes quite obvious that across a spectrum of sectors, the shared economy concept has unleashed disruptive forces that have forced a simple choice upon the occupants i.e. to level up and to elevate their communal needs.

It is important to note that the business of shared living spaces is moving to an asset-light model, where operators are changing and evolving their business model as per consumer needs,



rather than involving high business risks such as taking up building on rent. The aim is to take up buildings on a revenue share basis, which means that the operators operate the building as a co-living space on behalf of the owner for a fee in return. These are spaces that go beyond offering a space to live in, but a congregation of thoughts, ideas, opinions and backgrounds to coexist and be a part of a vibrant community for people to come together and connect.

### The growing need and importance of building a sustainable community

Community living is the principal driving force of co-living — to bring together people regardless of their age, to shape communities around similar and niche interests according to the ever-changing individual needs, to have the same mindset as millennials, and to pursue the will for a richer communal living environment. Further, co-living aims to be an option to combat loneliness, especially among the migrant millennial workforce in metro

cities, inviting people from different walks and different stages of life to co-create, evolve and flourish in collaboration by building meaningful connections and shaping a vibrant ecosystem with the help of recreational activities. Community management is thereby regarded as the key to the success of co-living.

Remote work is going to sustain for long or for the least, hybrid remote work is likely to become an integral part of workplace strategies as we go forward. Since human connection during the lockdown has been starved, co-living is an option that gives access to communal spaces and social events in a way that is unmatched by any other housing model. The properties are designed to revolutionise creative spaces in order to create an environment which is fun, playful and yet inspiring and fulfilling.

A specifically curated holistic community fosters a culture of inclusivity among the occupants which enables meeting a variety of other individuals and in turn expanding their network. Besides, provid-

ing contemporary lifestyle solutions that are fully equipped for people who enjoy hassle-free living. It provides smart living solutions, creating a balance for both leisure and work. However, co-living spaces need to elevate and step up their facilities to sustain and to endure the new reality.

### The outlook on co-living in 2021

Sustainability, community, and well-being are intertwined aspects. Health and well-being will continue to remain as the two primary factors for anyone to consider living in a safe space, especially in these unprecedented times. Considering the expansive offerings that shared accommodations and co-living spaces offer, along with ensuring enhanced safety protocols, this alternative will gradually become a necessity for modern migrants as they adjust and familiarise themselves with the new normal.

Today's workforce is on a constant move and does not wish to compromise on their living standards. The lockdown has led to starved human connection and there is a strong yearning for more social engagement opportunities than ever before. Promotion of positivity and empathy is the key to re-build the bond. To exemplify, build relationships between the residents and the local commerce or engage co-residents by curating events and fun activities. The pandemic has forced people to prefer places that offer safety and hygiene along with fully furnished facilities, rather than public places, which makes their transition to their new homes easier.

As long as there is a demand for affordable accommodation in cities, co-living will continue being a lucrative business for brands, providing opportunities to create conversational bonds and diverse communities with a better way of living, even in a pandemic. Residents are looking for proximity to the workplace and a holistically curated community living. The future of co-living sees a bright light at the end of the tunnel.

(The writer, Kahraman Yigit, is the co-founder and CEO of Olive by Embassy.)

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
My client Shyam Ji S/o Late Kanhaiya Lal R/o 146/200, Adarsh Basti, Mohammadpur, Delhi-110066, do hereby severe all his relations and debar his son Sandeep Verma from all his movable & immovable properties due to their disobedience and cruel nature. My client shall not be responsible for any of their acts. (Bajjit Singh Advocate) S-169, DDA HOG Market, Rajendra Place, New Delhi - 110008

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
This is to inform you that Late Shree Khushi Ram (Voter ID No. UP777387/0315215) S/o Late Shree Khairati R/o Village Parthala Khanjarpur Sector-122 Noida Distt. G.B. Nagar has a plot in Noida whose no. is Plot No PK-38 Sector-121 Noida is registered at suo registrar office 1st in Bahi No. 3, Jilo No. 673, at page no. from 221-238 on 27.12.2016 at serial no 2231. So above plot is being transferred to the name of Deepak Kumar Yadav (Adhar No.794265991315), Deepanshu Yadav (Adhar No.80859165639) S/o Shree Salyaveer Singh Yadav and Jasveer Yadav (Adhar No. 522825726288), Lokesh Yadav (Adhar No. 272679073694) S/o Shree Ransingh Yadav and Kalash Yadav (Adhar No. 507591536822), Dinesh Yadav (Adhar No. 286440084095) S/o Ram Singh R/o Village Parthala Khanjarpur Sector-122 Noida on the basis of registered will. So all related people is informed that if someone has any objection about transfer of above plot, then he submit his objection in Noida Authority Residential department with all document proof within 30 days from the publishing date of this information. Kailash Yadav

**GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR**  
**OFFICE OF THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (PURCHASE-I)**  
**SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES**  
**SOURA, SRINAGAR-190011**  
**FAX: 0194-2403929, E-mail: ammpurchase1@skims.ac.in**

**Sub :- Extension of E-NIT.**  
**Ref :- (i) E-NIT No: SIMS 325 (P 1<sup>st</sup>) Drugs Tender 07 OF 2020, DATED: 12.12.2020.**

**(ii) Approval of Director, Dated: 12.01.2021.**  
In view of present weather conditions and the representations made by the various firms requesting therein that due to bad weather they are unable to receive the hard copies from there principle companies therefore the last date for submission of online bid and opening of technical bid of above referred e-NIT as approved by the authorities is hereby extended as under :-

1.	Last date of submission of online bid	23-01-2021 (up to 2 pm)
2.	Date of Opening of technical bid	27-01-2021 (at 11:30 am)

• However in view of the present weather condition the hard copies of technical bids along with EMD and tender fee will be accepted till **27.01.2021 up to 11:30 am.**

• Other terms and condition shall remain unchanged.

No: SIMS 325 (P1<sup>st</sup>) Drugs Tender 07 of 2020- 132-38-5940-43.  
Dated: 13.01.2021  
Sd/- Materials Management Officer  
Purchase I, SKIMS

## APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 27 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found dead under the flyover, Wazirabad, Delhi on 11.01.2021. In this regard, a vide has been registered with **FIR No: 30/21 dated 11.01.2021 u/s 279/304A at PS Wazirabad, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the UIDB is as under:  
**Sex:** Male, **Age:** about 27 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Yellow-white colour shirt and grey colour pant. If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO/ Wazirabad, Delhi.

E-mail : [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641 **SHO**  
Fax : 011-24368639 **P.S. Wazirabad, Delhi.**  
DP/880/N/2021 **Ph. No. 011-23810076, 23810073**

**SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED**  
Regd. Office: 38E/252-A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat, New Delhi-110049  
CIN-L24302DL1973PLC189662  
Email:- [info@sunilhealthcare.com](mailto:info@sunilhealthcare.com) / Website: [www.sunilhealthcare.com](http://www.sunilhealthcare.com).  
Tel:- +91-11-49435555/00, Fax: +91-11-43850087

**NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given in pursuance to the Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 and other applicable regulation of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on **Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.**, through video conferencing/other Audio visual means, inter alia, to consider, approve and take on record the Un-Audited Financial Results for the 3rd quarter/nine months ended on December 31, 2020 of the financial year 2020-21. The Registered office of the Company at New Delhi shall be deemed as venue of the Board meeting. Further, the Trading Window, under the provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Prohibition of Insider Trading) Regulations, 2015 as already intimated via our letter dated 31.12.2020, shall remain close from **January 01, 2021 till January 23, 2021 (both days inclusive)**. The information contained in this notice is also available on the Company's website [www.sunilhealthcare.com](http://www.sunilhealthcare.com) and also available on the website of BSE Ltd. [www.bseindia.com](http://www.bseindia.com).

Place: New Delhi  
Date: January 13, 2021  
For Sunil Healthcare Limited  
Santosh Kumar Sharma  
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer  
F-6817

## SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Shikha Gupta, D/o: Bhupendra Kumar Gupta, R/o: B-1/160, Aman Vihar, Delhi has been reported missing since 17.10.2020 at around 02:00 PM from her house. In this regard FIR No. 548/20 dated 11.11.2020 has been registered at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi.** The description of missing girl is as under:  
**Name:** Shikha Gupta, **Age:** 18 Year, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Fair, **Wearing:** Black colour Suit & Grey colour Jeans  
If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi  
**Web:** <http://cbi.nic.in>, **Email:** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
**Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639** **SHO**  
**Police Station Aman Vihar, Delhi**  
**DP/599/RD/2020** **Ph.: 011-27581812, 8750870321**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Namat, D/o: Md. Ilyas, R/o: G-228, J.J. Collony, Sawada, Delhi has been missing/ kidnapped since 25.12.2020 at 3:00 pm. from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 15A dated 26.12.2020** has been registered at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. The description of the missing girl are as under: **Age:** 18 years 9 months, **Sex:** Female, **Height:** 5', **Face:** Long, **Complexion:** Shallow, **Hair:** Black, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black colour suit, white colour salwar and white colour jutti in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.  
**Website:** <http://cbi.nic.in>  
**E-mail Id - [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)** **SHO**  
**Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641** **P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi**  
**Fax No. 011-24368639** **Ph.: 011-25951486, 8750870324**  
**DP/603/RD/2021**



# Chennai airport gears up for a makeover



AAI's Chennai airport has been witnessing tremendous traffic growth over the years, which has necessitated the revamp of the airport aimed at providing a world-class terminal to passengers. The second phase of Chennai Airport Modernisation commenced in the year 2019 when the Prime Minister of India laid the foundation stone for the project.

The modernisation of the Chennai airport is planned in two stages. The first

stage has seen dismantling of the existing Domestic Terminal T-2 with an area of 19,250 sqm for construction of new facility, which is scheduled to be commissioned by June 2021. The second stage will be the demolition of International Terminal T-3, with an area of 42,300 sqm and construction of new terminal. The total project will be commissioned by December 2022.

The estimated cost of the project is ₹2,467 crore, which also includes integra-

tion of airside corridor for seamless flow, augmentation of contact bays, integration of multi-level mechanised car park and metro rail.

The new combined terminal (Stage-1 + Stage-2), which will function as one large integrated terminal for international and domestic operations having a total area of 2,18,000 sqm, will enhance the present capacity from 21 million passengers per annum to 35 million passengers per annum.

The design of the roof is most important as it gives the structure an iconic look. It is derived from the traditional form of local art and culture, the movement of traditional costume from Tamil Nadu's Bharatanatyam dance. The pleats in these costumes open beautifully when the dancer forms particular postures and the roof will reflect the movement and lightness of the garment. The fabric-like roof lightly sits above the terminal with the ripples creating from layers of curvature roof

structure. The roof then cantilevers over the forecourt road to create a welcoming space and weather protection for the passenger and visitors alike. Evidently, the new terminal and its interiors will reflect an array of aesthetic elements taken from the rich cultural repository of Tamil Nadu.

The new terminal will also be GRIHA (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) compliant, with various eco-friendly materials planned to be used during the construction phase. A host of new facilities will ensure passengers flow is smooth and safety/security aspects are given equal importance. Apart from multiple lounges and master concessionaires; Automated Tray Retrieval System (ATRS), Self-Baggage Drop (SBD), Passenger Flow Monitoring System (PFMS) and Boarding Process Control e-Gates will enhance passenger convenience.

With the commissioning of Multi-Level Car Parking (MLCP), the present

1,200 car parking capacity will increase to 3,000. The buildings will accommodate car parking area along with spaces created for commercial use.

AAI has also taken up works to enhance the efficiency of operational area (airside) of the airport by constructing Rapid Exit Taxiways (RETs), taxiways to the main runway (07/25), taxiway straightening works etc. The RETs will reduce runway occupancy time of aircraft. The introduction of MARS (Multi Apron Ramp System) ensures optimal usage of tarmac/Apron.

The commissioning of New Terminal will not only create new opportunities for the communities around airport but will also provide the required impetus to health and educational tourism.

The Chennai airport is the fourth biggest airport in India in terms of passenger handled every year. With the new terminal coming up, it will be termed as one of the unique engineering marvels.

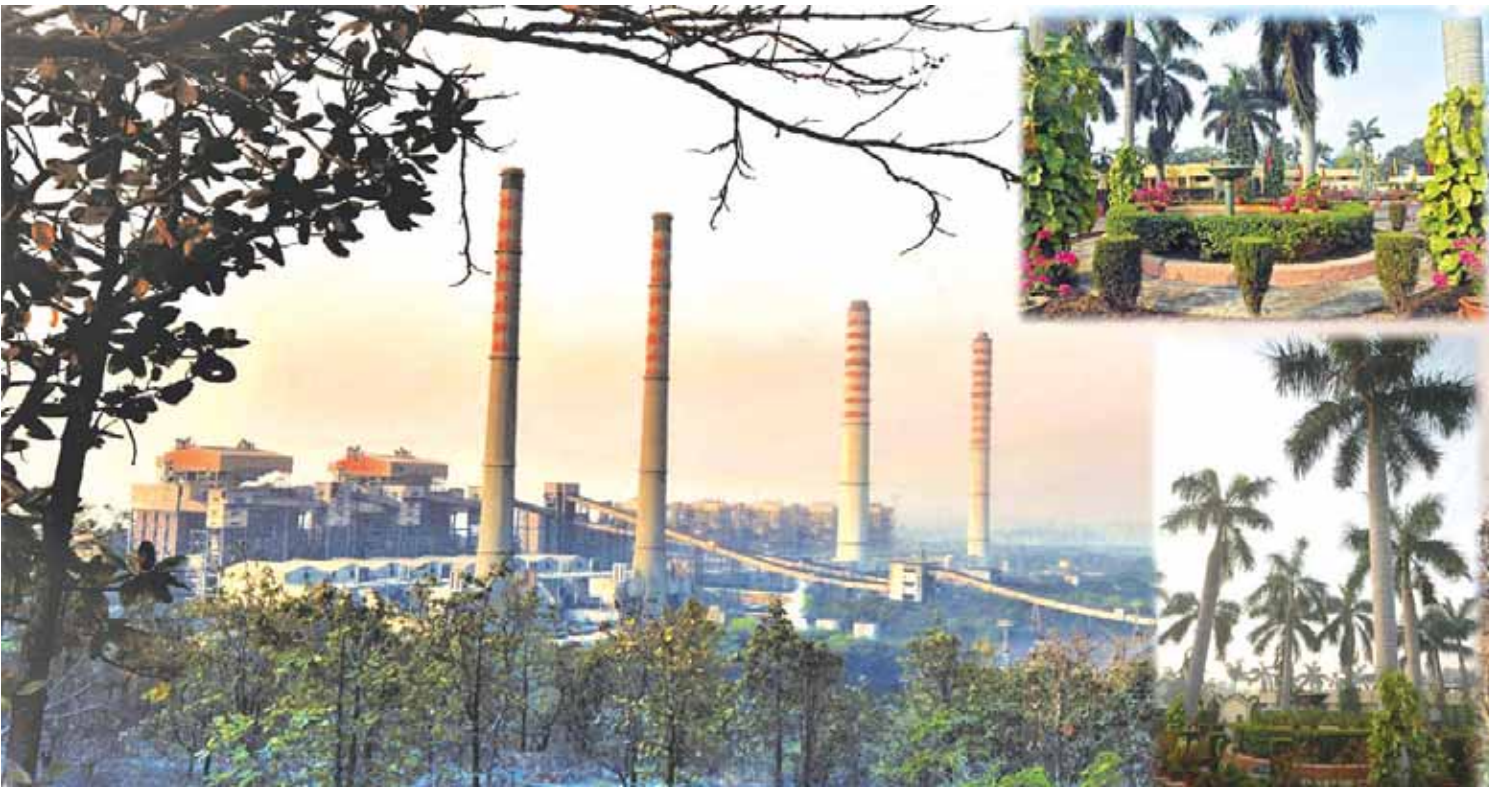
## LIC gives new opportunities

To encourage continuation of the risk cover in the current circumstances of Corona pandemic, LIC brings an excellent opportunity for its policyholders to revive their lapsed policies. It has decided to launch a Special Revival Campaign for its customers to revive their individual lapsed LIC policies. It has also authorised its 1,526 satellite offices to revive policies where special medical tests are not required.

Under this Special Revival Campaign, policies of specific eligible plans can be revived within five years from date of the first unpaid premium subject to terms and conditions. Certain concession in health requirements is also being offered subject to eligibility. Most policies can be revived only on the basis of a declaration of good health and a COVID questionnaire to be submitted by the proposer/life assured.

The campaign is launched to benefit those policy holders who were not able to pay premiums due to unavoidable circumstances and their policy lapsed. It always makes better sense to revive an old policy to restore insurance cover. LIC values its policyholders and their desire to continue their life insurance cover. This campaign is a good opportunity for LIC's policyholders to revive their policies and restore life cover to ensure financial security for their family. LIC currently services almost 30 crore policies across the nation.

## NTPC's oldest unit records highest PLF



NTPC Ltd's very first unit, which was commissioned 38 years ago at Singrauli in Uttar Pradesh, has achieved the highest Plant Load Factor (PLF) of 100.24 per cent among all thermal units in the country between April to December 2020, data published by Central Electricity

Authority (CEA) showed. The 200 MW unit was commissioned in 1982 and the robust PLF signifies the exceptional operational and maintenance efficiency.

Besides the exceptional feat achieved by unit#1, three more NTPC units — Singrauli unit#4 and Korba unit #1 and

#2 in Chhattisgarh, have figured among top five performing units.

Further, NTPC Group achieved highest gross generation of 222.4 Billion Unit (BU) from April to December 2020, an increase of 3.8 per cent compared to the same period last year. Concurrently,

NTPC coal power stations have maintained high availability of 92.21 per cent from April to December 2020 as against 87.64 per cent during the same period last year.

Six flagship power plants of NTPC i.e. NTPC Korba (2,600 MW), NTPC Sipat (2,980 MW) in Chhattisgarh,

NTPC Rihand (3,000 MW) in Uttar Pradesh, NTPC Vindhyachal (4,760 MW) in Madhya Pradesh, NTPC Talcher Thermal (460 MW) and NTPC Talcher Kaniha (3,000 MW) in Odisha have also featured among the top 10 performing thermal plants in the country.

## BSF rolls out Maitri Cycle Rally

Bangladesh is organising the birth centenary celebrations of "Father of the Nation" Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rehman, named as "Mujib Borsho", w.e.f 17th March 2020 to 16 December 2021.

In India too, many programs are being organized to commemorate the birth centenary of the Bangabandhu. In the series of these programs, Border Security Force is organising "Maitri Cycle Rally". This 'Maitri Cycle Rally' will begin on 10th January, 2021 from Border Out Post Panitar (Main Pillar-1), 153 Battalion, Border Security Force, 24 North Parganas District and after covering of total distance of 4,097 Kms along the border, the rally will end on 17th March, 2021, at Border Out Post Silkor, 60 Battalion, Mizoram Frontier. 13 Bicycle riders would be participating in this Cycle Rally. This rally will be completed in 66 days and it will be passing through the states viz. West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram along the Indo-Bangladesh border covering distance of 4,097 Kms.

This Cycle Rally will be flagged off from Border Out Post Panitar, at 1100 hours, by General Shankar Rai Chaudhary PVSM, AVSM, (Retd) on 10th January, 2021, in the presence of other dignitaries including senior officers of Border Security Forces & Border Guard Bangladesh and local people. This rally will cover distance of 90- 100 Km each day and will have nighthalts at the Border Posts along the International Boundary. Various programs will be organized by the Border Security Force at various Border Posts enroute, which will involve local government officials and people from the border areas who will encourage the riders.

On 11th January 2021, a program will be held at Petrapole to welcome this bicycle rally, in which Sh S. Ramakrishnan, IPS, ADG (Police) Retd, will be the Chief Guest. The event will be attended by Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh, IPS, Additional Director General, Eastern Command, Officers of Border Security Force & Border Guard Bangladesh and local people. This cycle rally will culminate on 17th

March 2021, at Border Out Post Silkor, Mizoram.

The objective of this bicycle rally is to create sense of security among the people living on the border,

to enhance the friendship between Border Security Force and Border Guard Bangladesh, to create awareness amongst the border population, to stop trans-

border crimes, no use of drugs and to stop cattle smuggling on the border. The Border Security Force is determined to make this cycle rally a success.

ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ବାର୍ତ୍ତା

ନବବର୍ଷ ଓ ମକର ସଂକ୍ରାନ୍ତି ଉପଲକ୍ଷେ, ଚଣ୍ଡୁଆ, କେନ୍ଦୁଝର ତଥା ଓଡ଼ିଶାର ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ହାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ । ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କର ସୁଖ ଓ ସମୃଦ୍ଧି ନିମନ୍ତେ ମା' ଜଗତଜନନୀଙ୍କ ନିକଟରେ ପ୍ରାର୍ଥନା କରୁଛି । କରୋନା ମହାମାରୀକୁ ସାହସର ସହିତ ସମାପନ ମହାକୁଡ଼ ମୁକାବିଲା କରିଥିବାରୁ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ପୂର୍ବତନ ବିଧାୟକ, ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ ଓ ଧନ୍ୟବାଦ ।

ସମାପନ ମହାକୁଡ଼ ଚଣ୍ଡୁଆ

**OFFICE OF THE DEAN & PRINCIPAL, MAHARAJA KRISHNA CHANDRA GAJAPATI MEDICAL COLLEGE, BRAHMAPUR.760 004, GANJAM, ORISSA.**

**No. 352 /MCB-2021/Welfare./Dated. Berhampur the 13th January,2021**

**TENDER CALL NOTICE**

**E-517 :** Sealed Tenders are invited from the Registered firms for "Supply of Equipment/Instrument" for different Departments of MKCG Medical College, Berhampur in two bid system (Technical & Financial) so as to reach the office of the undersigned within Twenty One days from the date of publication of the advertisement till 5 P.M. The detailed Tender paper, Terms & Conditions, list of Equipment/Instrument, specifications can be obtained from the office of the undersigned on payment of Rs.5000/- cash (nonrefundable) at the Accounts Section. The details are also available in the website mkgcmch.org. Those who will download the tender documents from Website should enclose a DD for Rs.5000/- towards cost of Tender paper in favour of Dean & Principal, MKCG Medical College, Berhampur payable at the S.B.I, MCC Branch, Berhampur.

The undersigned reserves the right to cancel of the Tender in full or parts at any time without assigning any reason thereof.

**Sd/- Dean & Principal, MKCG Medical College, Berhampur**

OIPR : 10013/11/0016/2021

**Government of Odisha**  
**Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Directorate of Horticulture, Odisha**  
**Office of Executive Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone, Horticulture, Berhampur**

**Email: executiveengineerhortosouthern@gmail.com, (e-Procurement Notice)**

**Bid Identification No.E.E. (A), SZ,HORTICULTURE-01 of 2020-21**

**L-53**

1. Number of Works	: 3 (three)
2. Approximate Estimated Cost	: Rs.25.00 lakh to Rs.35.45 lakh
3. Period of Completion	: 45 days
4. Date and Time of availability of Bid documents in the Portal	: 18.01.2021 from 11.00 AM to 01.02.2021 up to 5.00 P.M
5. Date of Submission of hard copies of tender documents	: 02.02.2021 from 11.00 AM to 03.02.2021 up to 5.00 P.M
6. Date of opening of Tenders	: 04.02.2021 at 11.00 AM
7 Name & Address of the Office Inviting Bid	: Executive Engineer (Agril.), Southern Zone, Horticulture, Berhampur

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal <http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in>.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer (Agril.) Southern Zone, Horticulture Berhampur**

OIPR : 01043/11/0004/2021





GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA

# KALAHANDI

## A Tale of Transformation



DADLS-71

SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha will dedicate 54 Projects of Cost 1064 Cr. and lay foundation stone of 52 Projects of Cost 1020 Cr.

Inauguration of Projects

Irrigation Development

- Construction of Bisamguiri MIP in Th. Rampur Block 1.92
- 13 Check Dam 4.83

Child Protection

- Observation Home and Special Home at \Bhawanipatna 3.5

Infrastructure Development (Connectivity)

- Improvement to PokharibandhaLanjigarh road from 13/800 Km to 18/020 Km. 4.985
- Improvement to Rampur-Risida-Karlamunda Road from 8/0 to 18/900 KM for the year 2018-19 5.607
- Improvement to Road from Golamunda to Borda (via-Kegaon) from Ch. 0/0 to 7/800 KM in the District of Kalahandi for the year 2018-19 5.839
- Widening & strengthening to multilane standard of Bhawanipatna-Rayagada road from 0/0 to 2/300Km for the year 2018-19 5.546
- Improvement to Balipada-Rupra Road (ODR) from 0/0 to 8/0 KM under State Plan for the year 2018-19 4.824
- Construction of H.L.Bridgesover Matul Nallah at 4th Km & 6th Km on Balipadar-Rupra Road 3.273
- Construction of H.L.Bridge over Sidingi padajore at 3rd Km on Pajibahal-Mohangiri Road 3.525
- Construction of H.L.Bridge over Raja padaJore at 1/400 Km on Tundla-Karlamunda Road 3.676
- Construction of H.L.Bridge over Bhangamunda Nallah at 6th Km on TundlaKarlamunda Road under Kalahandi Dist 4.083
- Construction of Bridge over local Nalah on NH-201 to Themra Road under BSY 2.62

Infrastructure Development (Building)

- Forest Rest House, Bhawanipatna 0.36

Urban Infrastructure

- "Parichaya" at Gopabandhunagar (ward no.13), Dharamgarh NAC 0.056
- Parichaya" at RCMS PADA HinjiliBahali Slum at Junagarh NAC 0.053
- "Open Space Development" at Gopabandhunagar (ward no.13) Dharamgarh NAC 0.034
- "Mission Shakti Gruha" (ward no.10), Dharamgarh NAC 0.062
- "Mission Shakti Gruha" (ward no.12), Dharamgarh NAC 0.062
- Material Recovery Facility (MRF) opposite side of Eye Hospital, NAC Junagarh 0.067
- Micro Composting Centre MCC opposite side of Eye Hospital, NAC Junagarh 0.5

Drinking Water

- 10 Drinking Water Projects 20.02

Agriculture Marketing

- New Market yard / Mandi at Gambhariguda 0.69
- New Market yard / Mandi at Dalguma 0.71

Rural Infrastructure

- Construction of KalyanMandap at Sirol, GP-Sirol in Kesinga Block 0.35
- Construction of Mission Shakti Gruha at Balsi GP, GP-Balsi in Kesinga Block 0.05
- Construction of Bedagaon GP building of Lanjigarh Block 0.35
- Construction of Mission Shakti building of Lanjigarh Road GP 0.05
- Construction of GP office building of Bordi GP Golamunda Block 0.35

- Construction of Mission shaktiGruha of Rengsapali 0.05
- Construction of Mission shaktiGruha , Golamunda 0.05
- Construction of new PDSGodown of Bordi GP 0.06

Laying of Foundation Stone Projects

Irrigation Development

- Mega lift irrigation project at Salebhata 59.08
- Megalift irrigation project at Champadeipur 40.87
- Megalift irrigation project at Gopinathpur 68.32
- Megalift irrigation project at Teran gasil 42.05
- Sandul Irrigation Project 227.89

Infrastructure Development (Connectivity & Building)

- Construction of H.L. Bridge over Indravati Reservoir on 1st Km of Mahulpatna-Kenduguda-Gopinathpur road in the District of Kalahandi 38.42
- Widening and Strengthening of Malagaon to SH-16 (Podmundi) canal embankment service road from 0/00 km to 7/500 km in the district of Kalahandi for the year 2019-20 8
- Widening and Strengthening of (NH - 26) Singhjharan to SH (Kamthana) canal embankment service road from 0/00 km to 7/000 Km in the district of Kalahandi for the year 2019-20 7
- Extension of HL Bridge over river Tel including provision of release vents and approach road at 15th Km near Bandhgaon on Jaring - Nandol-Brundhabahal Road in the District of kalahandi under NABARD assistance RIDF-XXV 16.94
- Construction of H.L. Bridge over River Tel at 7/800 Km on Dharamgarh 9.94
- Construction of H.L. Bridge at Kumarkeni Nallah at 5/800 Km and Dumerpadar Nallaha at 11/800 Km on Th Rampur - Kashipur Road 9.859
- Improvement such as widening and strengthening of Jaipatna Dhansulin Nabarangpur Border Road via Dulughati from 0/0 Km to 5/0 km under State Plan (Normal) 5
- Improvement such as widening and strengthening of Jaipatna to Mukhiguda Road (ODR) from 0/0 to 8/120 Km under State Plan (Normal) 9.96
- Improvement to Koksara Behera via Dahagaon Road (ODR) such as widening and strengthening from 0/0 to 9/0 Km under State Plan (Normal) 8
- Improvement to Palam Belkhandi Road (ODR)such as widening and strengthening from 0/0 to 9/700 Km under State Plan (Normal) 9
- Construction of Bridge on Boria to malpada road under Kesinga aBlock 2.5

Urban Infrastructure

- Completion of Town Hall - Ongoing Town Hall Project at Bhawanipatna is an aspirational project for the people of Kalahandi , being the most preferred destination for all kinds of citizen engagement in the town 2.3
- New Liveable Habitat, Kesinga 0.954
- Smart Park at Bhawanipatna Municipality 2
- Smart Park at Kesinga NAC 0.75
- Smart Park at Dharamgarh NAC 0.75
- Smart Park at Junagarh NAC 0.75
- Model Crematorium at BhawanipatnaMunicipality 1
- Model Crematorium at Kesinga NAC 0.75
- Model Crematorium at Dharamgarh NAC 0.75
- Model Crematorium at Junagarh NAC 0.75

Development of Educational Infrastructure

- Construction of 150 seated Library(GF) , 150 seated Reading Room (1st Floor) and 96 seated computer room (2nd Floor)

- Building , Boys and Girl's' Common Room for Govt Autonomus College Bhawanipatna in the district of Kalahandi under World Bank Assistance Programme Phase - I Civil EI and PH 3.12
- Construction of Academic Block for Govt Autonomous College,Bhawanipatna in Kalahandi under World Bank Assistance(O HEPEE) 2.15
- Construction of Academic Block for Panchayat College Dharamgarh in Kalahandi under World Bank Assistance(OHEPEE) 1.89

Drinking Water

- Mega Pipe Water Supply to Golamunda Block covering 28 gram panchayats 177.84
- 40 single village Pipe Water Supply Schemes 116.73

Agriculture Marketing

- Model Market Yard at Bandigaon 2.5
- Upgradation of Model Mandi, Bhawanipatna 3.5
- Upgradation of Model Mandi, Kesinga 3.5
- Establishment of Multi PurposeGodown- Biswanathpur LAMPS-(RMC Bhawanipatna) 0.26
- Establishment of Multi PurposeGodown- Kamthan PACS-(RMC Bhawanipatna) 0.26
- Establishment of Multi PurposeGodown- Sikerkupa LAMPS-(RMC Bhawanipatna) 0.26
- Establishment of Multi PurposeGodown – Tundla PACS(RMC Kesinga) 0.26
- Establishment of Multi PurposeGodown – Mohangiri PACS(RMC Kesinga) 0.26

Sports Development

- Extension of Gymnasium cum Indoor Hall, Bhawanipatna 1
- Sports Indoor Hall at Kesinga NAC 3.5
- Sports Indoor Hall at Dharamgarh NAC 3.5
- Sports Complex, Hostel, Kitchen, Gymnasium, Development of playfield at Sports Hostel, Bhawanipatna 3.72

Infrastructure for Employment

- Multisectoral MSME Park, Kurlupada, Kesinga 26
- Food Park, Kurlupada, Kesinga 21

Health Facility

- Construction of Attendant Rest Shed at DHH Bhawanipatna 3.32
- Construction of 30 bedded MCH building at SDH Dharmagarh 9.8
- Construction of OPD building at CHC,Pastikudi 0.87
- Construction of Modular Kitchen at DHH,Kalahandi 0.394

Infratructure Development (Energy)

- Alternate new 33KV feeder from Chandragiri (Kashipur) 220/33KV Grid Substation to Th. Rampur 33/11 KV Substation (25km) 4.43
- Brundabahal 132/33 KV Grid Sub-Station 52
- Errection of 11KV agricultural feeder from Daspur to Makhla (45 Kms) 4.69

Dedication of 54 Projects cost 1064.862 Cr. and Laying Foundation Stone of 52 projects cost 1020.347 Cr.