

**OPINION 6**  
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JOB INTERVIEW

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# SII, Biotech release jab dos & don'ts

## Covid-19 vaccine makers' factsheet to help recipients understand shots' risks & benefits

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Three days after the launch of the nationwide vaccination drive and reports of several adverse events following immunisation (AEFI), Serum Institute of India (SII) and Bharat Biotech, makers of anti-Covid vaccine Covishield and Covaxin respectively, released a set of "Dos and Don'ts" aiming to help a recipient understand the risks and benefits of their vaccine.

Interestingly, soon after the approval of their vaccine by the DCGI early January, both firms had questioned the efficacy of each other's jabs. The Bharat Biotech fact-sheet said that "it is advisable not to take the vaccine if a person has allergies, fever or bleeding disorder or is on a blood thinner. It also said that pregnant and breastfeeding women should also avoid taking Covaxin."

Those who are immune-compromised or are on medicine that affects immune system, and those who have received another Covid-19 vaccine should also not get the Bharat Biotech's medicine, said the company whose vaccine is being refused by a section of doctors like the Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) of RML hospital in Delhi and Karnataka to name a few. They have preferred Covishield over Covaxin.

Private practitioners like Dr Rahul Bhargava, Director (Institute of Blood Disorder and Bone Marrow Transplant) Fortis Hospital, Gurugram, too, minced no words as he

doubted the efficacy of the Covaxin.

He also felt that the two companies should have released the factsheets prior to the mega vaccination drive so that people were not only aware of the health impacts of the vaccines but also whether or not they are eligible for it.

The Hyderabad-based biotechnology firm also said that the DCGI has authorised the restricted use of its vaccine under clinical trial mode.

"Individuals, who are prioritised under the public health programme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, will be covered under this endeavour. Informing the individuals about the offer for vaccination with Covaxin will rest with the respective Government programme officials. Those offered Covaxin at pre-specified booths will have the options to receive or reject administration of the vaccine," the factsheet stated.

The company document further described the ingredients in the Covaxin. It contains 64g of whole-virion inactivated SARS-CoV-2 antigen (Strain: NIV-2020-770), and the other inactive ingredients such as aluminum hydroxide gel (250 µg), TLR 7/8 agonist (imidazoquinolinone) 15 µg, 2-phenoxyethanol 2.5 mg, and phosphate buffer saline up to 0.5 ml. "The vaccine thus has been developed by using inactivated/killed virus along with the aforementioned chemicals," it said, adding that Covaxin is administered as an injection into the deltoid muscle of the upper arm. It is a

two-dose series given four weeks apart.

Not keen to be left behind in the race, within minutes the SII too released its factsheet, stating that people who are severely allergic to any ingredient of Covishield are advised not to take it. "Pregnant and lactating mothers should mention it to the healthcare provider before getting the jab. Also, do not forget to take the second dose!"

The SII said that one should not get the Covishield vaccine if the person had a severe allergic reaction after a previous dose of this vaccine which has "L-Histidine, L-Histidine hydrochloride monohydrate, Magnesium chloride hexahydrate, Polysorbate 80, Ethanol, Sucrose, Sodium chloride, Disodium edetate dihydrate (EDTA), water for injection," as its ingredients. About the



A health worker receives a Covid-19 vaccine at a Government Hospital in Mumbai on Tuesday

AP

possible adverse effect of the vaccine, the SII said that "some of the very common side effects of the vaccines are tenderness, pain, warmth, redness, itching, swelling or bruising

where the injection is given, generally feeling unwell, chills or feeling feverish, headache or joint aches." However, if you feel dizzy, lack of appetite, abdominal pain,

enlarged lymph nodes, excessive sweating, itchy skin or rash, then you should contact the doctor as these are not very common symptoms, the release said.

## Adverse events here lowest in world, Govt allays fears

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Amid reports of vaccine hesitancy among doctors and health workers, the Government on Tuesday tried to allay their fears saying that the concerns about adverse effects and serious problems, as of now, seem to be unfounded, negligible and insignificant and that the adverse events following immunisation reported "were fairly low, in fact lowest so far in the world in the first three days."

It also urged healthcare

workers not to hesitate to get the Covid-19 vaccine as "it was their societal responsibility to get inoculated."

Both the vaccines — Covishield and Covaxin — are safe and a lot of effort has gone into making them, NITI Aayog member (health) Dr VK Paul said as he lamented that "It is saddening that healthcare workers, especially doctors and nurses, are declining to take it."

"We are not fulfilling our societal responsibility if a vaccine assigned to us is not being

taken. The whole world is clamouring for a vaccine. I request you to please accept the job. Vaccine hesitancy should extinguish because Covid-19 inoculation is taking us towards the elimination of this calamity," Paul said and disclosed that he himself has taken a jab of Covaxin.

"We are very fortunate that we are running this vaccination drive at a time when the pandemic looks like to be in a controlled situation. So in this period, by taking the jabs, we have to create a wall of vac-



cine-induced immunity and be ready for any kind of eventuality in future," he said.

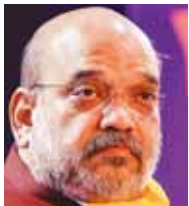
## EPS shuts door on Sasikala's return, calls on Modi, Shah

Tamil Nadu CM says no chance of her returning to ADMK, invites PM

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi Palaniswamy, who is also the co-coordinator of the AIADMK, said in New Delhi on Tuesday that there was no possibility of VK Sasikala, the jailed aide to late Chief Minister J Jayalalitha, returning to the party.

The TN Chief Minister met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday.



During his meeting with the Prime Minister, Palaniswamy extended the former an invitation to visit the State for inaugurating a slew of projects there.

Ruling out Sasikala's inclusion in the AIADMK-led front, Palaniswamy said, "There is no chance... She is not with the party now. I can say that ...100 per cent...there is no chance of Sasikala returning to AIADMK." The fact that she shut the door of Sasikala after his meeting with Modi and Shah is significant. Sasikala is serving a four-year-jail term in Bengaluru's Parappana Agrahara Central Jail in connection with the disproportionate asset case in which she was accused along with late Jayalalitha, and two others.

## 122 new +ve in State

○ 122 NEW +VE IN STATE

○ CASELOAD RISES TO 3,33,566

○ 250 RECOVER; TOTAL RECOVERIES 3,29,801

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a further declining trend, 122 new Covid-19 positive cases were reported in 18 districts of the State on Tuesday, with which the total caseload increased to 3,33,566.

Of the new cases, 72 were reported from quarantine centres and 50 were local contact cases. Sundargarh district recorded the day's highest 26 new cases followed by Sambalpur 23 and Puri 17.

The number of total active cases stood at 1,810. Meanwhile, 250 patients recovered on the day, taking the total recoveries to 3,29,801 in the State.

## Govt declares Bose birth anniversary as 'Parakram Diwas'

New Delhi: Ahead of the Bengal polls, the Centre on Tuesday announced to celebrate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birthday on January 23 as "Parakram Diwas" (Valour Day) every year with Prime Minister Narendra Modi all set to attend the first day of programme in Kolkata on Bose's 125th birth anniversary. He will also inaugurate an exhibition on the grounds of the National Library to mark the occasion in the State.

However, the decision was slammed by the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress which termed it as poll gimmicks while evoking a mixed response from Subhas Chandra Bose's grandnephew CK Bose, who is also a BJP leader. TMC leader Saugata Roy said that the declaration to celebrate the day as "Parakram Diwas" has been made with an eye on upcoming West Bengal Assembly polls.

PNS Detailed report on P4

## IAF team to go in for S-400 training, ignores US threat

India brushes aside sanctions warning by US

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Rushing aside the US threat to impose sanctions, the first batch of IAF personnel will shortly leave for Moscow for training to operate S-400 air defence systems. India and Russia had inked a deal in 2018 worth over ₹45,000 crore for five defence systems. The first S-400 will arrive in India by this year end and the remaining four systems will be inducted by 2023.

China has already inducted six S-400 air defence systems and India needs it urgently to bolster its capabilities to secure its air space. The S-400 can detect an incoming hostile aircraft or missile from a distance of more than 500 km and shoot it down. Giving details of the Indian team's departure to



Moscow, Russian ambassador Nikolay Kudashev on Tuesday here described it as a "remarkable occasion" that will usher in "a new stage in our strategic partnership." More than 100 personnel, including officers and airmen, will leave for Russia by the end of this month for the training. "S-400 supplies initiative is one of the flagship projects in the Russian-Indian military and military-technical cooperation, which historically constitutes the main pillar of the special and privileged strategic partnership between our two friendly countries," the envoy said while hosting the Indian team at an event.

## In Rourkela CS, 5T Secy inspect hockey stadium site

PNS ■ ROURKELA

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, 5T Secretary VK Pandian and Sports Special Secretary Vineel Krishna on Tuesday visited the BPUT campus here to take stock of the proposed project site of a world-class hockey stadium.

After completion, it would be the largest hockey stadium in the country of international standards with a sitting capacity for 20,000 spectators. The construction would be completed by middle of 2022. The design of the stadium is being made keeping in view the world-class experience to be provided to both the hockey players and spectators. This stadium would have a main pitch, flood lights, a practice pitch, gymnasium, hydro therapy, a media centre, a wireless centre, parking lots and other ultra-modern facilities.

## 14 migrants, baby girl sleeping by roadside mowed down by truck

Surat: Thirteen migrant labourers and a year-old-girl from Rajasthan who were sleeping by the roadside in Gujarat's Surat district were among 15 dead after a dumper truck ran over them on Tuesday, police said.

Those killed include eight women and a migrant worker from Madhya Pradesh, police said. While 12 of them died on the spot, three died during treatment at a hospital, police added. Except for the 19-year-old worker from Madhya Pradesh, all the other deceased were from villages in Banswara district in south Rajasthan, police said. Tragedy took place near Kosamba village, around 60 km from Surat. The truck driver, who apparently lost control over the vehicle after hitting a sugarcane laden tractor, has been booked under sections of the IPC and Motor Vehicles Act, police said.

Detailed report on P5

## Assembly panel to tour disputed border areas

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In a State Assembly House Committee meeting held on Tuesday, the border disputes with Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Chhattisgarh were discussed in detail.

Assembly Speaker Surjya Narayan Patro, who presided over the meeting, wanted to

know about the border dispute cases pending in the Supreme Court and directed to submit the details in the next meeting.

The committee members submitted a proposal that the Collectors and SPs of the concerned districts should interact at least once with their counterparts of the neighbouring States. It was decided that the

House Committee would tour the Kotia hamlet and other disputed areas.

In the next committee meeting, the Revenue, Law, Home and Panchayati Raj Secretaries would be present personally and inform how the development processes have been expedited in the disputed areas.



private laboratories for scanning and cough up hefty amounts of money due to unavailability of proper facilities at the premier hospital here.

## --Bribery charge-- Dhenkanal Additional Tehsildar held

### Jharsuguda health staffer too trapped

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Dhenkanal Sadar Additional Tehsildar Laxman Dalei was arrested on Tuesday for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 30,000 from complainant Sarojinee Kishan of Puruna village, Jharsuguda in order to process death certificate in favour of late father of complainant.

On the basis of complaint by Kishan, a trap was laid on Tuesday and Ghasi was caught red-handed. The residential house of Ghasi at Rajpur was searched, besides a case registered against him by Rourkela Vigilance Division.

## No free vaccine to health workers who deny jab

### 2nd load of Covishield reaches State

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Healthcare workers refusing to take Covid-19 vaccine during the ongoing immunisation drive in the State would not be allowed for free vaccination again. However, those remaining absent earlier would be vaccinated free of cost in the next phase of the drive.

Health and Family Welfare Director and Vaccine-in-Charge Bijay Panigrahi said this while speaking to mediapersons regarding the reports of a few healthcare workers hesitating or fearing to take the vaccine shot. As per official



sources, no case of anaphylaxis has been reported in the State so far following administration of the vaccine, Pangrahi said.

Stating that the drive is successfully being carried across the State, he said that while 31,902 healthcare workers were expected to be vaccinated on the second day of the drive on Monday, a total of 32,526 beneficiaries were given the first doses of vaccine, which is 102

per cent of the enlisted beneficiaries for day. The vaccination was conducted at 375 sites across State on Monday.

Meanwhile, a second consignment of anti-Covid-19 vaccine Covishield reached State by a SpiceJet cargo flight from Pune on Tuesday. The consignment of 28 packets comprising 3,34,500 doses arrived at Biju Patnaik International Airport.



--During 2020-21 fiscal--  
State likely to have ₹25K-cr revenue shortfall

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With the economy set to contract due to Covid-19, the State Government is likely to face a shortfall of Rs 25,000 crore on total revenue receipt during 2020-21 fiscal. Financial advisors are now busy working out ways and means as to how to meet the shortfall so that allocation for various development sectors would be made available. While the State's resources heavily depend on Central taxes, it is apprehended that nearly Rs 18,000 crore would be the shortfall from this source

during 2020-21. The Central transfer includes share in Central taxes and grants; and due to the Covid impact, the economy is set to contract at national and State levels. It is apprehended that both the share in Central taxes and the grants would go down as tax collection has been affected due to the pandemic at the national level. As per the Budget Estimate, total Central transfer to the State was estimated at Rs 68,300 crore, out of which share in Central taxes was Rs 36,300 crore and grants was pegged at Rs 32,000 crore. By

December 31, the State received Rs 33,872 crore, out of which the share in Central taxes was Rs 17,203 crore and grants amounted to Rs 16,669 crore. So, the total Central transfer was 19.5% less as compared to 2019-20 fiscal. Looking at the trend of last nine months, officials expect that in all likelihood Rs 16,700 crore would be available from the Central Government; and in total, Rs 50,752 crore is likely to be received by March 31, 2021. So, Rs 17,728 crore would be less from the Central kitty as per the Budget Estimate. Secondly, there would also be

a shortfall in the State's own revenue sources as the economy has contracted. A total own revenue was estimated at Rs 56,000 crore; and by December 31, the collection on this count was Rs 34,051 crore. In next months, this receipt is likely to be Rs 15,405 crore. So, the total own revenue receipt would be Rs 49,500 crore, it is estimated. And it is not known how to meet these shortfalls as there is high requirement of spending from health and livelihood sector for Covid-19 response. Certainly, the State would opt for more market borrowing to meet the balance require-

ment. As on date, the State has a debt stock of Rs 1.01,000 lakh crore, which is likely to go up more by March 31, 2021. However, Odisha has more fiscal flexibility to go for more borrowing as the State is well within its FRBM limit and its financial prudence has been well-accepted. Secondly, the Centre has allowed an additional 2% fiscal deficit for 2020-21 over and above the normal limit allowed under the FRBM Act. However, a conscious call has to be taken on the quantum of fiscal deficit as it adds to the State's debt stock, officials say.

And now, Samaleswari Temple beautification project

Top State officials visit Sambalpur

PNS ■ SAMBALPUR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Tuesday announced a beautification project for the Samaleswari Temple here. As directed by Patnaik, a high-level team comprising Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra, Western Odisha Development Council (WODC) Chairman Asit

Tripathy and 5T Secretary VK Pandian visited the shrine on the day and held a discussion regarding the project. The Samaleswari Temple is all set to get a major facelift as the project includes development of a heritage corridor, a Bhoga Mandap, accommodation facilities for devotees and tourists and a parking space. A special rehabilitation package would be announced for the servitors of the temple and those who would be evicted for land acquisition during the project work. A target of two years has been



set for completion of the project, which would be carried out under the 5T initiative of the State Government. Notably, earlier, similar projects had been announced by the Chief Minister for the Jagannath Temple in Puri, the Lingaraj Temple in Bhubaneswar and the Tara Tarini Temple in Ganjam.

72 per cent PMGSY roads sanctioned for 2020-21 finished

Target set to complete target by March

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

With the feat of achieving first position at the national level in implementation of the PMGSY for last four consecutive years, Odisha has kept up the high rate of implementation in the current year also beating all the adversities of Covid-19 pandemic. This was ascertained at a meeting held under the chairmanship of

Chief Secretary Suresh Chandra Mohapatra here on Tuesday. It was revealed that 72% of PMGSY roads sanctioned for 2020-21 has been completed. Reviewing the progress made so far, Mohapatra directed the Collectors, Superintendents of Police and Executive Engineers of the concerned districts to prepare project-wise micro-plan against each project, more particularly for the project in Leftwing-affected areas. The Chief Secretary also directed the district administrations to provide all support to the contractors working in those remote areas. The issues relat-

ing to availability of materials, mobilisation of machinery and engagement of more manpower were discussed and resolved in the meeting. Director General of Police Abhay, participating in the discussion through videoconference assured that police are all set for providing any ground level support. Development Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Jena said, "Road connectivity is a prime focus area of Government and there is no problem of funding for projects under various schemes." A target was set to complete PMGSY roads by end of March 2021.

Another case filed against Panigrahi

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Another fraud case has been lodged against arrested Gopalpur MLA Pradeep Kumar Panigrahi at the Golanthara police station in Ganjam district. It was alleged in the FIR that Panigrahi had taken Rs 3 lakh from one Pravat Kumar Nayak of Keluapalli village promising of giving a job to his brother in the Tata Motors. The FIR lodged on January 12 is the third such complaint against Panigrahi at the Golanthara PS. Earlier, two



cases were filed in December 2020 with allegations the he had duped two persons of 7 lakh, for giving jobs in the Tata Motors.

Gastroenterology Endoscopy Conference from Jan 22

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Midterm Endocon 2021 would be held here from January 22 to 24. Organising secretary Dr Manoj Kumar Sahu said this would be the first hybrid conference by the Society of Gastroenterology Endoscopy of India (SGEI), endorsed by the World Endoscopy Organisation and American College of Gastroenterology. It is the country's largest forum having over 3,000 delegates across the globe, with global experts from India and across the globe. Speakers would join virtually and also

physically to bring latest innovations in managing common and complicated gastrointestinal problems, which will educate the doctors with the latest and advanced technology for better patient care. On January 22, MidTerm Endocon 2021 would be inaugurated from Bhubaneswar and first time Global Gastroenterology Associations presidents (American College of Gastroenterology, American Society of GI Endoscopy and World Endoscopy Organisation) would join the platform and would be interviewed by the organising chairman and past president of



World Endoscopy Organisation, Dr D Nageshwar Reddy. Postgraduate students and young doctors would present their research and interesting cases in a unique video format. Technicians and nurses would be trained in several training sessions.

Graft cases: 2 held in Balangir, Khordha

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Minati Rath, In-Charge Principal, Panchayat Samiti Higher Secondary School, Bangomunda, Balangir district, was on Monday arrested by the Vigilance police for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 80,000. She was caught red-handed while receiving the money from complainant Dolamani Meher, Assistant Librarian, of the school for not suspending him from service. Residential house of Rath at Jhankarpada,

PS-Bangopada, Bolangir was searched. A case was registered. Similarly, on the day, Prasant Kumar Mohapatra, former Geo Tag Youth of Bolagarh Block, Khordha, was arrested for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 3,000. He was caught red-handed during a trap, while receiving money from complainant Bikash Kumar Swain of Khanguria village, Bolagarh to influence the GPEO, Bolagarh for processing file for marriage registration certificates in favour of Swain's cousins.

DSBM holds State-level test GENESIS

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The DAV School of Business Management organised DSBM GENESIS 2K20, a State-level management event on Sunday where young participants from different higher secondary schools across Odisha participated. The vital purpose of the event was to provide an ideal and exemplary platform to the young minds to ignite, ideate and develop analytical

skills as well as demonstrate their knowledge and ability. The session was graced by GM (HR), NTPC, Bhubaneswar, Milan Kumar as chief guest. Reader, Utkal University, Dr Himanshu Sekhar Rout as guest of honour laid emphasis on innovative ideas and creativity which is the need of the hour. He discussed about the history of Atmanirbhar Bharat. Principal, DSBM Dr DN Mishra educated the young minds about the profession-

al competence building programme. Utkarsh Panda of Mother's Public School, Bhubaneswar emerged as the winner, the 1st Runner-Up was bagged by Karishma Mohanty from DAV Public School, Bhubaneswar and Ishika Dey from DAV Public School, Dera, Talcher stood 2nd Runner-Up. The event was organised by the BBA (Hons) and BCom (Hons) students under the guidance of the entire DSBM fraternity.

Police issue 704 JERs for SC, ST victims

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Under the SC and ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, there are provisions for compensation to victims. For such compensation, a joint inquiry report by the DSP and Executive Magistrate is a requirement. On instructions of DGP, a special drive was launched from January 11 to 17 by the Odisha Police for conducting such joint inquiries and issuing the Joint Enquiry Reports (JERs). As a result of this special drive, 704 JERs were issued during this one week period.

JSW surpasses 1L-tonne ore dispatch on a day

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The JSW Steel Limited, a flagship company of the JSW Group, has achieved a major milestone with its iron-ore dispatch surpassing 1 lakh tonnes on a single day from its newly acquired mines in Odisha. Notably, the JSW Steel acquired four iron ore mines - Narayanposi, Ganua, Nuagaon and Jajang in the districts of Sundergarh and Keonjhar in Odisha in February, 2019 having known reserves of 1,131

million tonne. The company went into mining operations in July last year amidst all supply chain disruptions caused due to Covid-19 pandemic but with sheer determination and abiding all pandemic norms, the team at JSW progressively climbed up the production targets month on month to achieve the coveted milestone in a short span of little over than six months time. Since operational with full capacity, these mines are expected to produce around 36 MT per annum.

City foot over-bridge plan okayed

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A proposal for construction of a foot over-bridge between Saeed Nagar and the Syama Prasad Mookerji Park near Satsang Vihar here has been approved by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), informed Bhubaneswar MP Aparajita Sarangi on Tuesday. The foot over-bridge would be constructed at a cost of Rs 1.25 crore, she informed. Notably, local residents have been demanding such a facility since long for better road

connectivity to the other parts of the State capital city.



Tension at Utkal varsity after group clash

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Within a few days of reopening, tension is prevailing in the Utkal University campus here following Monday night's clash between two groups of hostel inmates over poor-quality food. Even as a section of the students gheraoed the Vice-Chancellor's office on Tuesday, police forces were deployed to prevent any untoward incident and senior officials are holding discussion with both rival groups to defuse situation. As per reports, tension ran high

following the clash between the two student groups of Gopabandhu Hostel over 'stale' food being served at the university canteen. While one group reportedly complained of being served 'substandard' food, other group protested allegations which led to faceoff. Some students alleged that they were abused and attacked by non-students with sticks. The Students' Union would hold a hunger strike and continue it till stringent action is not taken against hooligans and all their demands are fulfilled.

CCB scam engineered to taint Birendra's image

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Cuttack Central Cooperative Bank (CCB) Limited, a 64-year-old premier cooperative organisation spread over four districts, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada and Jajpur, is catering to the agricultural need of farmers through 468 Primary Agriculture Cooperative Societies (PACS) in addition to artisans as well as small traders under 700 PACS. The organization had gone insipid and was languishing in inertia. A new lease of life dawned upon the organisation as soon as an elected management under the stew-

ardship of Birendra Pratap Swain took over since May 1, 2015. Thereafter, the organisation did not look back. It stole the limelight by bagging State level awards and accolades for performance. For example the net profit which was Rs 5.81 crore in 2014-15 rose to a whopping Rs 17.14 crore setting an example and an all time high record of excellence. This is worth mentioning here that the bank for the first time in its history paid dividends not only to the employees but also to the stakeholders. This is also pertinent to mention here that the Co-operative Bank had donated an inviable amount of Rs 200 crore to the

Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the cause of Covid containment. The Bank had also received appreciation from NABARD for highest financing to joint liability groups during 2018-19. Meanwhile, the charges of corruption against Birendra Pratap Swain is motivated in order to malign his brother who is Athagarh MLA and Minister Food Supply and Consumer Affairs and Cooperation Ranendra Pratap Swain. When Birendra himself is not found guilty at all in any way or in any manner by an eight-member team of inquiring officers deputed by the State Government for the purpose, the charge against him is not-

ing but a wild goose chase engineered by a vested interest group with some ulterior motive. In this connection this is to be mentioned here that, Birendra was elected as President of CCB during 2015 through a proper democratic process when his brother Ranendra was not inducted as a Minister. Such an endeavour by making false and fabricated allegations against Birendra is a sinister design by some Machiavellian groups to caste aspersion and hurl calumny upon the spotless white image of a leading leader of cooperative movement in the State, who had brought laurels to this sector during his brief stint.

Inter-caste marriages are fast gaining popularity



ABASH PARIDA

Inter-caste marriage is old but currently a much-discussed topic in India. Many formal and informal laws are being introduced and operated to enhance as well as to curb the inter-caste marriage. Inter-caste marriage can be defined as a form of marriage between male and female from two dif-

ferent cultural and subcultural groups. Inter-marriage in subcultural groups is broadly and popularly defined as inter-caste marriage. Caste system is endogamous in nature. Marriage within the caste is a norm. So any form of marriage outside own caste has been considered as a social pariah. Still inter-caste marriages are on the spree. In fact it is spiking up. States like Bihar and Kerala where caste system plays a pivotal role, it is reported that the number of inter-caste marriages have improved. This improvement is the result of relaxation of the restrictions from social institutions. Education plays a major role but surprisingly a research shows that it is not the couple's education but education of girl's mother that plays a determinant role in inter-caste marriage. Economic independence of women and occu-

pational mobility are also helping to increase the inter-caste marriage in India. Inter-caste marriage is analysed on two parameters such as its causal factor and its consequences. There is always an apprehension towards couple's married life adjustment ranging from personal to cultural. But a study shows a kaleidoscopic opinion about inter-caste marriage couple adjustment. Language, food habit, economic and religious practices are not serious obstacles as far as adjustment is concerned. Generally inter-caste marriage is of two types such as hypergamy where upper-caste boy marries a lower-caste girl and hypogamy which involves an upper-caste girl with lower-caste boy. Out of these two inter-caste marriages, hypogamy has greater disapproval than hypergamy. Conservative nature of parents,

caste and community response, peer group pressure are responsible for this. A survey shows apart from community response towards inter-caste marriage, in many cases selection of partner and his economic condition plays a key factor to create a sense of disapproval. For example, if selected partner is unemployed or low-salaried then the chance of rejection is more. This sense of disapproval and rejection is in covert as well as in open violent form. Honour killing, caste conflict, rejection of offspring out of this marriage, suicide by couples, ostracism and social outcaste are the few from many consequences. The Government of Kerala has introduced Safe Homes for inter-caste married couples. These safe homes are meant to provide accommodation for one year and to ensure security to the couples from society.

A survey done by the India Human Development Survey (IHDS) reveals that from 1970 to 2012 the percentage of inter-caste marriage has increased marginally from 5 per cent to 6 per cent. It indicates that still caste has a strong hold on the mate selection in India. The survey further shows that the Brahmins, who top in the caste hierarchy have the maximum percentage of inter-caste marriage of 6.3 per cent whereas Scheduled Caste has only 4.7 per cent and OBC with 4.8 per cent. It means the acceptance of inter-caste marriage is more among the upper-caste particularly in Brahmins. Interestingly, the other fact that comes out of the survey is that rural India is more favourable than urban India as far as inter-caste marriage is concerned. Generally, it is assumed that the rural society is based on caste system and

caste panchayat and urban society is modernised and open-minded. An IHDS survey shows that rural society in India has 5.29 percent of inter-caste marriage vis-a-vis 4.99 percent inter-caste marriage in urban area. In order to promote inter-caste marriages in India, the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment executes the inter-caste marriage incentive scheme. The objective is to promote inter-caste marriages where one of the spouses is a Scheduled Caste and their marriage is based on Special Marriage Act 1954 and Hindu Marriage Act 1955. This incentive to inter-caste marriage is under Centrally Sponsored Scheme where Central assistance is released to the States and UTs by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. It is reported that as many as 1.2 lakh inter-

caste married couples have benefitted from the scheme in the last seven years that is from 2013-14 to 2019-20 and 52 percent of them are from Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. In addition to the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Dr Ambedkar Scheme for Social Integration through Inter-Caste Marriages is another Central scheme for encouraging inter-caste marriages supervised by the Dr Ambedkar Foundation under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. The Odisha Government has announced a portal named as Sumangal. The objective of this portal is to encourage inter-caste marriage. A financial benefit of Rs 1.5 lakh to Rs 2.5 lakh is given to inter-caste legally married couple. In Odisha, Dalits consist nearly 17 percent of total population. This scheme is aimed to bring

social harmony, social integration and to help the newly married couples to settle down initially. Of course Sumangal may help to eradicate the social problem like untouchability in Odisha. Caste is endogamous. Marrying within community or subculture is not bad or unethical. But a controversy arose when some scientists claimed that due to endogamy a limited pool of gene will be created and it may lead to certain genetic disease. However these arguments and Government schemes can only encourage inter-caste marriage. The success of inter-caste marriage solely depends upon social situation, couple's personality traits and respect for individual freedom. (Dr Parida is Assistant Professor, Sophitorium Group of Institutions, Khordha, Phone: 8456879522)



# Animals sacrificed at Sulia Jatra

PNS ■ BALANGIR

Hundreds of tribals on Tuesday observed the annual Sulia Jatra at Khairguda village in Balangir district by sacrificing animals and birds. The tribals marched in a procession to the ritual site at Khairguda and performed sacrifice of animals and birds in the morning.

Notably, to propitiate the presiding deity, the devotees throng Khairguda village of Kulpada panchayat under the Tusura police limits of the district on the second Tuesday of Pausa month every year with hens and goats for sacri-

fice. They believe that offering blood of animals and birds to Sulia, their traditional deity, brings good harvest resulting in prosperity and happiness to their families and the community as a whole.

Significantly, there had been a tussle between the district administration and the Zilla Adivasi Sangha in the past following the Orissa High Court's order to abolish such practice and mass killing of animals.

But after the Supreme Court's verdict to respect tribal rituals and traditions, the district administration this year kept itself away from

opposing the animal offerings. It only beefed up security during the festival to avoid any untoward situation. Adequate security arrange-

ment was made to maintain law and order situation this year as well. In absence of any prohibitory order, police limited its role for crowd control.



## Union Budget 2021-22

## State asks ₹7,200 cr for railways

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State Government has demanded ₹7,200 crore for the railway sector and ₹5,650 crore for the telecom sector in the Union Budget for 2021-22. Several issues were raised by State Finance Minister Niranjan Pujari during pre-Budget consultations between Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Finance Ministers of States in a videoconference on Monday.

Pujari sought a minimum ₹7,200 crore for railway infrastructure in State for the ongoing projects, sanctioning of new lines, stations' modernisation, establishment of rail-based industries and multi-modal logistics parks.He also urged for an allocation of ₹5,650 crore in telecom sector in the State. He too wanted an

amendment to the Sub-Section (3) of Section 8 of the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 prohibiting misuse of 'C' Forms by the manufacturers, mining contractors and works contractors for inter-State purchase of high-speed diesel and payment of CST at 2%. Pujari also demanded adequate funds for development and maintenance of National Highways, resolution of power sector issues and sufficient financial provisions for supply of piped drinking water.

The Centre must hold consultations with the State Governments before taking major policy decisions affecting sub-national finances, he demanded. Pujari said the State must be allowed to execute the Centrally-sponsored schemes directly and not by opening separate bank accounts scheme-wise.

## ‘Get rid of greed to realise Netaji’s dreams’

## Netaji Subhas Utsav held in BBSR

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

To realise the dreams of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, political leaders, bureaucrats and common citizens should restrain themselves from hankering after power and money, opined speakers at the inaugural ceremony of the 7th National Netaji Subhas Utsav organised by the Utkala Bikash Juba Parisad here on Sunday.Not only Netaji, the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of India had the same dreams. An India free from poverty,hunger, unemployment, oppression ,

corruption and communalism. But their dreams have been shattered by the hunger for power and the greed to accumulate wealth, the speakers said. The utsav is dedicated to three martyred Chapekar brothers, Damodar Balakrushna and Basudev,who were hanged by British for killing the tyrannical British Plague Commissioner of Pune WC Rand on June 22, 1897 .

The function was presided over by Parisad president and national convenor of Netaji Subhas Birth Soil Yatra Debi Prusty. It was inaugurated by Loksevak Mandal chairperson Deepak Malviya and National Youth project director S N Subbarao Vijjee. Among others, Simantini Jena, Jyoti Mishra, Prof Chakradhar Tripathy also spoke.

## Start NY with handful of almonds in daily diet

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

As we step into 2021, let's resolve to make one small yet positive change to our family as well as our lives and include a handful of almonds to the diet every day, which can go a long way in building overall health.

Leading Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan said, “My resolution for the year, is to omit all unhealthy snacks from my family and my diet. Almonds are known for their satiating properties, and also provide energy, which makes them a



healthy yet tasty treat. Besides that, almonds are known to contain a variety of important nutrients because of which they offer the goodness of health in every bite.” Regional Head-Dietetics, Max Healthcare – Delhi, Ritika

Samaddar said, “As we step into 2021, we're all hopeful and eagerly waiting for a Covid-19 vaccine to be available. However, something that the previous year has taught us is to prioritize our health. Therefore, in the New Year, it's important to take stock of your family and your eating habits and lifestyle to make the necessary revisions.

The first thing I would recommend is to start including healthy foods such as almonds to your own and your family's daily diet.” Beyond adding a host of nutrients to our diet.

## Baleswar Art, Sport teachers aggrieved

## 439 teachers in 250 schools seek permanent job

UBACHAK MOHANTY ■ BALESWAR

Strong resentment is brewing among the part-time teachers of art and sports engaged in different schools here. They alleged that they were made victims of the stepmotherly attitude of the State Government and demanded that they be regularized.One of

## B'garh farmers stage stir before DM office

## Demand crop insurance dues

PNS ■ BARGARH

Farmers of Bugbuga gram panchayat under Atabira block of Bargarh district have not yet received crop insurance compensation for the last Rabi season.

In addition, four affected farmers in the panchayat have not been covered by the 2017 Kharif crop insurance. The affected farmers had informed



this to the Bargarh district Collector on January 4. But they are yet to get the benefit. So, hundreds of farmers of Bugbuga panchayat sat in front of the Collector's office on Tuesday in protest.They warned that they would not back down unless they have a firm promise to be paid crop insurance compensation.

## Covid vaccination begins at PPT Hospital

PNS ■ PARADIP

Vaccination against Covid-19 started at the PPT Hospital on Tuesday for the healthcare workers and frontline workers being inaugurated by Additional District Magistrate, Paradip, Kanhu Charan Dhir and PPT Deputy Chairman Asish Kumar Bose in the presence of the officers and employees of the PPT Medical Department.

A total of 100 of the hospital's healthcare workers and frontline workers got immunised. The first shot was given to Chief Medical Officer Dr Prahallad Panda, who said he took the first vaccination to allay fear of other healthcare



and frontline workers as well as others and to stop the rumor mongers spreading misinformation about the efficacy of the vaccine.He said the Covid-19 vaccination had been eagerly awaited to prevent the spread of the virus by creating HERD immunity in the community. As per the Government guidelines, in first phase, the healthcare workers and frontline workers are being immunised.

## Bike owner slapped ₹33K fine for letting juvenile ride

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

The Kendrapada RTO on Monday slapped a fine of Rs 33,000 by registering two cases against Pramod Kumar Aruk, owner of a bike, of Kulasahi under Penthapal panchayat of Pattamundai police limits. The offence included allowing a minor to ride his motor bike by violating traffic rules under new Motor Vehicles Act 2019.

According to Kendrapada RTO Nikhil Kumar Pattnaik during motor vehicle inspection at Duhuria on Monday, a juvenile was found riding a bike without driving licence and hel-

met. The RTO staff later slapped a fine amount of Rs 8,000, including Rs 5,000 as fine for licence, Rs 1,000 for helmet and Rs 2,000 for insurance by registering a case.

During inquiry, it was found that boy was a juvenile for which RTO personnel registered another case and issued Rs 25,000 challan against bike owner Pramod Kumar Aruk. The juvenile was asked to submit his Aadhar. Besides he will be deprived of a driving licence until he attains 25 years whereas bike registration of owner is going to be cancelled for a year, said RTO sources.

## Dereliction of duty J'suguda civic body EO suspended

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Taking disciplinary action, the State Government on Tuesday placed Jharsuguda Municipality Executive Officer (EO) Rama Chandra Pradhan under suspension with immediate effect.

The disciplinary proceeding against Pradhan was contemplated for disobedience of Government orders, poor governance, nonperformance, non-attainment of targets, dereliction in duty, deliberate attempt not to implement

Government orders and low performance in implementation of developmental works. “During the period of suspension, the headquarters of Pradhan shall be the office of Sambalpur Municipal Commissioner and he shall not leave the headquarters without obtaining prior permission of the competent authority,” stated suspension order. Pradhan would be entitled to the payment of subsistence allowance in accordance with Rule-90 of Odisha Service Code, the order added.

## School gets ₹5.87-cr electricity bill!

Though closed for 10 months

PNS ■ CUTTACK

A Government-run primary school in Cuttack district, which remained closed for around 10 months due to the Covid-19 pandemic, has shockingly received an electricity bill of a whopping Rs 5.87 crore. The bill issued by the Tata Power Central Odisha Distribution Limited (TPCODL) to the Sisua Project Upper Primary School under Kantapada block of the district has charged the mammoth Rs 5,87,12,580 (rebated amount)

for electricity usage. The date for availing the rebate is February 17 while school would have to pay Rs 5,92,82,212 in case of payment after deadline.

Taken aback by bill, school authorities approached local TPCODL office seeking clarification over matter. The headmistress of school has been told byTPCODL employees to clear dues or else electricity supply would be disconnected. Gopalpur Electrical Sub-Division SDO Chhabila Behera said this incidence might have been due to a technical error in generation of the bill. .

### INBRIEF

#### ROAD SAFETY WEEK BEGINS IN JAGATSINGHPUR



Jagatsinghpur: Local MLA Prasanta Muduli inaugurated the National Road Safety Week awareness campaign at College Square here on Monday. He also flagged off a decorated chariot displaying road safety measures. District Collector SK Mohapatra, SP Prakash R, RTO PK Panda, MVIs Panchanan Behera and Sharmila Moharana, Traffic Inspector PK Mohapatra, DIPRO Kaminiranjana Pattnaik and students of the Carrier Creator Coaching Centre, bike dealers Geeta Motors and Honda showroom and intellectuals, scribes and senior citizens were present. The awareness chariot would tour all blocks and municipal areas in the district.

#### 1 DIES AS TRUCK HITS TRACTOR IN PALLAHARA

Pallahara: A labourer, Sunia Purty, died in a collision between a tractor and a trailer truck at Jhimiripali on the National Highway-149 under the Pallahara police station on Monday. While the tractor on its way to Mahabir Crusher carrying labourers, a pig iron-laden truck hit it from the rear, following which Purty fell down and came under the wheels of the truck. The Pallahara police came to the spot and shifted the injured labour to a hospital, where the doctor declared him dead. Police seized the truck.

#### 'MO SCHOOL' COMMITTEE FORMED AT BHAPUR



Bhapur: For overall development of the Nodal School here, a 'Mo School' committee has been formed with Gangadhar Barik chosen as its president unanimously. Duryodhan Sahu was chosen vice-president, Padmanabh Sahu treasurer, Ramesh Barad assistant secretary, Among other, school Headmaster Chitaranjan Panda, teachers Bijay Kumar Mallick,Savita Dhali and members Aparti Sahu, Pdmalochan Behera, Sadhu Charan Singh, Kulamani Sahu, Panchu Sahu and Jadumani Behera were present.

#### VACCINATION DRIVE BEGINS AT BHAPUR



Bhapur (Nayagarh): The vaccination drive for Covid-19 was inaugurated at the Bhapur Community Health Centre in Nayagarh district on Monday by local Tehsildar Trupti Mohanty. While a target was set to inoculate 100 persons, 80 persons were vaccinated. Twenty pregnant women and other persons suffering from various diseases were exempted. CHC in-charge Satyapriya Sahu, Anganwadi Workers and other staffs were present.Ataryami Nayak was the first to receive the shot. CDPO Renubala Nanda was also vaccinated.

## 1 held in Tirtol jewellery loot case 30 gold chains recovered

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

The police here arrested a youth hailing from Nuapada district in connection with the Tirtol jewellery shop robbery incident that occurred January 7 and recovered as many as 30 gold chains from the looter. A bike was also seized in the case. According to a Press release issued by the district police on Monday, one Parsuram Manik, owner of Sarala jewellery shop, had lodged an FIR in Tirtol police

station informing that on January 7 two unidentified youths had stepped into his shop by impersonating as customers and later decamped with a box containing gold chains. Police swung in to action and formed a team to investigate robbery. Taking clues from the shop owner and CCTV footages, police apprehended a youth from Nuapada district.

During interrogation he disclosed involvement of five others in crime. The accused was presented in court on Monday and forwarded to jail after his bail pleas were rejected while investigation was on to nab others involved in loot.

# Social distancing, a history of avoiding infections

SUNDEEP MISHRA

Communities have gone to extraordinary lengths to avoid infections; however, before the Covid pandemic, nobody thought that a virus, 100 times smaller than even bacteria, would make human closeness a big problem.

Even centuries before we knew about microorganisms, antibodies or vaccination, people had a pretty good idea that being infected was something to avoid at any cost. Regarding prevention of infections the Ayurveda has discussed conduct under ‘Sadvriddha’ (Code of good conduct).

It can be classified as Personal - regime of bathing, cleaning of eyes, nose, ears, teeth, oral cavity, nails etc and Social - not using unwashed clothes, dirty or uncomfortable clothes, clothes worn by others, not appropriate to the season, occasion or clothes made from unnatural fiber Social Distancing: Time: 5th century BC – Scene: Bible, the Book of Leviticus 13:46: “And the leper in whom the plague is...he shall dwell alone; [outside] the camp shall his habi-

tation be.”Quarantine: Time: 541 – 542 CE – Scene: Plague of Justinian, Emperor Justinian enforced an ineffective quarantine on the Byzantine Empire, including dumping bodies into the sea; he predominantly blamed the widespread outbreak on ‘Jews, Samaritans, pagans, heretics, Arians, Montanists and homosexuals’.

Four Thieves Vinegar: Today we achieve disinfection by hand washing or using alcohol based disinfectants. Legend says that in the Middle Ages ‘four thieves vinegar’ – a concoction of herbs brewed in cider vinegar was invented by a group of grave robbers to keep them safe from decomposing infected material.

However, when they were arrested they agreed to share their secret recipe in exchange of freedom. Since then, it was common to douse oneself before leaving the house, as a way of staving off the plague. Cane Six Spans Long: Fast forward 16th-Century Sardinia; Scene - outbreak in the city of Alghero, the good doctor Quinto Tiberio Angelerio devised an ingenious method

of social distancing, in which “any person going out from home must carry a cane six spans long the distance measured by a human hand], and as long as the cane is, one must not approach other people”. Furthermore, he also recommended only one person per household venture out to do the shopping, and urged his readers to be careful when shaking hands.

Toad Vomit Lozenges: Time: 17th century – Scene: Black Death, Sir Isaac Newton, the celebrated physicist developed toad-vomit lozenges to combat the epidemic. 1793, yellow fever outbreak: The US Government simply evacuated entire sections of Philadelphia, then-capital of USA. At that time nearly ½ the population of Philadelphia (estimated 20,000 people) was evacuated.

Lazarettos: Time: 18th Century, Scene: Italy, Lepor colonies and lazarettos were established as a means of preventing the spread of leprosy and other contagious diseases through social distancing.Closure of Parks and Public Places: Time:1916

– Scene - New York City polio epidemic: There were more than 27,000 cases and more than 6,000 deaths due to polio in the United States, with more than 2,000 deaths in New York City alone.

New York City parks and playgrounds were closed, movie theaters were closed, meetings were cancelled, public gatherings were almost non-existent, and children were warned not to drink from water fountains, and told to avoid amusement parks, swimming pools and beaches.

1918 flu pandemic: Scene: St Louis, USA: After the first cases of influenza were detected in the city, authorities implemented school closures, bans on public gatherings and other social-distancing interventions. Later, the influenza fatality rates in St.

Louis were much less than in Philadelphia, which had fewer cases of influenza but allowed a mass parade to continue and did not introduce social distancing until more than two weeks after its first cases.Dental Job: Time: 1940s, as a part of dental practice, women would routinely have

all their teeth removed, as a way to prevent sepsis (during pregnancy). As a matter of fact this strategy was so popular that it was often paid for as part of a wedding gift, or for their 18th birthday.

School closures: Time: 1957-58 – Scene: Asian flu in US, enforcing school closures were shown to reduce morbidity from the Asian flu by 90% and up to 50% in controlling influenza in the US.

1963, Edward Hall: A cultural anthropologist, coined the term proxemics to define studies about social distancing in everyday life. Hall proposed four main zones of space between individuals:

(a) Intimate distance (less than half a metre), such as in giving or receiving a hug; (b) Personal distance (about 1 metre), usually reserved for family or good friends; ( c ) Social distance (2 to 3 metres), when meeting strangers; (d) Public distance (more than 5 metres), such as in public presentations. Evolution of the term Social Distancing: It started with a memoir by a friend of Napoleon, who

talked about how he experienced social distance (space) in his friendship with Napoleon, as Napoleon began to conquer more places.

Then it's used a lot as a euphemism for class in 19th-century British newspapers and as a euphemism for race in 19th century U.S. newspapers. In the 1920s, the Social Distance Scale [which measures prejudice by asking participants to describe how comfortable they feel interacting with people of another race] becomes a social science tool, a reductive attempt to slice the world into ethnic groups, and it's still in use.

Definition of Social Distancing (Modern): In public health, social distancing, aka physical distancing, is a set of non-pharmaceutical interventions / measures intended to prevent the spread of a contagious disease by maintaining a physical distance between people and reducing the number of times people come into close contact with each other.

(Prof (Dr) Mishra, Department of Cardiology, AIIMS, New Delhi)

## Road Safety Week

# Violators offered roses in Brahmapur



PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

On occasion of the beginning of the National Road Safety Week, the Brahmapur Traffic police created awareness among the college students about the road safety rules.

The participants were sensitised about wearing helmets, not to use mobile phones while driving and not to drink and drive. The Traffic police also requested four-wheeler drivers

to use seat belts for their safety.The violators for a change were offered roses instead a being penalised. “About 80 per cent of bikers were seen using helmets. Those who didn't use helmet and violated traffic rules were offered roses and requested to follow rules, said Traffic DSP Bimala Kanta Nayak. Among others, RTO Bikash Choudhary and Traffic IIC Sunil Kumar Behera were present.

CENTRE'S CALL AHEAD OF BENGAL POLLS

# Bose's birth anniversary declared 'Parakram Diwas'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the Bengal polls, the Centre on Tuesday announced to celebrate Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birthday on January 23 as 'Parakram Diwas' (Valour Day) every year with Prime Minister Narendra Modi all set to attend the first day of programme in Kolkata on Bose's 125th birth anniversary. He will also inaugurate an exhibition on the grounds of the National Library to mark the occasion in the state.

However, the decision was slammed by the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress which termed it as poll gimmicks while evoking a mixed response from Subhas Chandra Bose's grandnephew CK Bose, who is also a BJP leader.

TMC leader Saugata Roy said that the declaration to celebrate the day as 'Parakram Diwas' has been made with an eye on upcoming West Bengal Assembly polls. He said that there shouldn't be politics in Netaji's name.

Roy added that if the Prime Minister wanted to do it, he could have done it six months ago. "Why on the eve of Netaji's birthday and just before the Assembly Elections in the Atate?"

He added that TMC is not happy with the Government's decision. "We are not satisfied with the Government's decision to celebrate Netaji's birthday as 'Parakram Diwas'. It

should be 'Deshprem Diwas'. We believe Netaji deserves much better. We will observe this day on our own with Mamata Banerjee leading a procession in the State," said Roy.

Earlier, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting the Modi Government to declare the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as a national holiday.

Naren Chatterjee, state secretary of the Forward Bloc, the party formed by Netaji in 1939, said, "Instead of 'Parakram Diwas', the day should be celebrated as 'Desh Prem Diwas'. The demand to observe January 23 as 'Patriotism Day' was made by the Left Front when it was in power".

CK Bose, a BJP leader and Netaji's grandnephew said that "Netaji was India's liberator. We welcome the announcement but people have been celebrating January 23rd as 'Deshprem Diwas'. It would've been more appropriate, had the government announced it as Deshprem Diwas. But we're happy about the announcement".

Earlier in the day, Union minister Prahlad Singh Patel had at a press conference announced the Government's decision and said that in this regard a notification has also been issued.

"The Government has

decided to observe January 23 as 'Parakram Diwas' to commemorate the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose," Prime Minister Narendra Modi will participate in the first 'Parakram Diwas' programme in Kolkata on January 23 on Bose's 125th birth anniversary and inaugurate an exhibition on the grounds of National Library to mark the occasion, Patel said.

Patel said PM Modi will also felicitate prominent members of the Indian National Army formed by Bose and their family members in Kolkata on Saturday.

He said 200 Patua artists from West Bengal will make a painting on a 400-metre-long canvas depicting Bose's life.

Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan will participate in a programme in Cuttack, Odisha, where Bose was born while another programme will be held in Haripura village in Gujarat's Surat district where Bose was elected as president of the Indian National Congress in 1938.

The culture ministry is also considering building a memorial in the honour of around 26,000 martyred members of the INA, Patel said adding that a 85-member high-level committee helmed by PM Modi has been formed to plan year-round programmes to mark the 125th birth anniversary of the freedom fighter.

# Rahul raps PM on national security

## Cong gave away land to China, ignored farmers' interest: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday hit out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue of national security after reports that China has built a village in Arunachal Pradesh. He also alleged that India doesn't have a clear strategy like China to assert its dominance in the world and unless India sends out a clear message, Beijing won't stay quiet.

"Remember his (PM) promise — Mai desh jhukne nahi dunga (Will not let the country bow)," Rahul said. Congress leaders P Chidambaram, Randeep Surjewala and Manish Tewari also attacked the Prime Minister on the matter.

Recalling the two recent incidents in Doklam and Ladakh where Indian and Chinese soldiers clashed, he said China will make the most out of India's shortcomings and the day will come soon when we will suffer damages.

During a Press conference Rahul launched a blistering attack at the Modi government over the reported discovery of Chinese settlements in Arunachal Pradesh.

"China has a clear strategic vision of shaping the world which India doesn't have. India does this and that but doesn't work strategically. China has

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As Congress leader Rahul Gandhi attacked the Modi-Government on the Chinese border incursions and the unresolved farmers agitation, BJP top leaders on Tuesday hit-back saying Congress gave away thousands km land to China and that "dynasty-ruled party" ignored farmers interests and indulged in "double-speak".

Political temperatures increased as BJP's own MP from Arunachal Pradesh Tapir Gao said that Chinese had constructed a village on the Indian side in Arunachal Pradesh.

BJP President J P Nadda and Union Information & Broadcasting Prakash Javadekar took turns separately to attack Rahul and the Congress after the latter took jibe at the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the reports

of Chinese construction of village in Arunachal Pradesh and questioned him on the issues of national security.

"Now that Mr Rahul Gandhi has returned from his monthly vacation, I would like to ask him some questions. I hope he will answer them in his today's Press Conference," tweeted the BJP President.

"When will Rahul Gandhi, his dynasty and Congress stop lying on China? Can he deny that thousands of kms, including the one in Arunachal Pradesh he is referring to was gifted by none other than Pandit Nehru to the Chinese? Time and again, why does Congress surrender to China?" Nadda tweeted.

He accused Rahul of "provoking and misleading" farmers and alleged double standards.

"Why did farmers remain poor for decades under

Congress governments? Does he feel sympathy for farmers only in opposition?" he asked.

"Why is he spreading lies?," Nadda sought to ask.

Nadda accused Congress and the 'dynasty' striking an MOU with the Chinese Communist Party and receiving money in a fund controlled by the Gandhi family.

He accused Congress party of demoralising the country on all issues be it related to border, national security or fighting Coronavirus pandemic.

"Rahul Gandhi spared no opportunity to demotivate the nation in the spirited fight against COVID-19. Today when India has one of the lowest cases and our scientists have come up with a vaccine, why hasn't he congratulated the scientists and lauded 130 crore Indians even once?", BJP head asked.

# End of subsidy in Parl canteens

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Agreeing to the long term demand, Parliament has decided to end the subsidy in the canteens which may save annually around ₹8 crore.

Briefing the media on Tuesday, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that Lok Sabha Secretariat which was bearing the cost of subsidy has decided to stop the practice of subsidised price of food items in the canteens and the canteens will be run by ITDC in place of Northern Railway.

Talking to reporters about preparations for the next Parliament session, beginning January 29, Birla said Question Hour and Zero Hours will be in this session. Members of Parliament will be requested to undergo the COVID-19 test before the start of the Budget session.

While Rajya Sabha will sit from 9 am to 2 pm, Lok Sabha will function in the second half from 4-8 pm. The Question Hour will be allowed during the session for an already fixed time of one hour.

He said all arrangements have also been made for RTPCR COVID-19 tests of MPs near their residence. In Parliament premises, the RTPCR tests will be conducted on January 27-28, while arrangements have also been made for these tests of families and staff members of MPs. Birla said the vaccination drive policy finalised by the Centre and states will apply to parliamentarians as well.

# Rahul brings booklet to highlight loopholes in agriculture laws

## Accuses Modi of monopolising farm sector

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of monopolising the agriculture sector as he renewed his attack against the Centre over the contentious farm laws. He also released a booklet to highlight the pitfalls of the legislation enacted in September last year.

"There is a tragedy unfolding today in the country. Govt wants to ignore the issue and misinform the country," Rahul said while addressing a press conference after the release. "I am not going to speak about farmers alone as it is only part

of the tragedy. It is important for youngsters. This is not about present but about your future," he added.

"Today, every industry is under a monopoly of three to five people. Be it airport, telecom or power. Modi Government wants to give the agriculture sector as well to those four to five industrialists," he added.

The Congress leader also said that the new farm reforms are designed to destroy India's agriculture sector. "The biggest business in this country is agriculture. Sixty per cent of our people are engaged in agriculture and in terms of value, agriculture is by far the biggest hit. Now we are seeing is that the last bastion which was protected from monopoly is now being overrun. Three new laws have been passed. They are designed to destroy agriculture by destroying the

mandi, Essential Commodities Act, and by making sure that no Indian farmer can go to court to protect himself," he added.

"We were a preeminent economy, now we are a laughing stock," Rahul Gandhi also said.

Farmers are agitating against the farm laws for over 50 days now and the government has held nine round of talks so far. However, it has failed to bring any resolution to the matter. The farmers are adamant on the demand to repeal the laws which the government has refused and is firm on their offer to amend the legislation.

In the last meeting, the Centre had suggested that the unions constitute their own informal group to prepare a concrete proposal on the three farm laws for further discussion at their next meeting.

# SC seeks to know steps taken for cleaning Yamuna water

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought a report from a committee, set up by the NGT, on its recommendations for improving the water quality of the Yamuna river and the extent to which the authorities have implemented them.

The National Green Tribunal, on July 26, 2018, had constituted the monitoring committee comprising its former expert member B S Sajwan and former Delhi chief secretary Shailaja Chandra on the cleaning of the Yamuna and had directed it to submit an action plan in this regard.

A bench headed by Chief Justice S A Bobde took note of the submission of amicus curiae and senior advocate Meenakshi Arora that the NGT-appointed panel has been monitoring the cleaning of Yamuna water.

In the proceedings con-

ducted through video conferencing, the bench, also comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and Vineet Saran, asked the committee to submit its report on recommendations made by it for improving the quality of water of Yamuna and the extent to which they have been implemented.

Earlier, the top court had taken suo motu cognizance of contamination of rivers by effluent in the country and had decided to take up the pollution of Yamuna river first.

While taking cognizance of contamination of rivers, the top court had said that the pollution-free water is a fundamental right which a welfare state is "bound to ensure".

It had asked Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to submit a report identifying municipalities along the Yamuna which have not installed total treatment plants for sewage.

# NFR bribery case: CBI seizes ₹2.04 cr more

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The CBI has recovered an additional ₹2.04 crore during further searches conducted in the bribery case related to senior officers of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR).

It was found during further searches at the premises of a private firm located at Kailash Colony here that certain items were removed and concealed at other places in Delhi. Earlier, ₹2.39 crore in cash was recovered during searches.

On Tuesday, searches were also conducted in Sikkim and Kanpur. During earlier searches at 26 locations, including at Delhi, Uttarakhand, Assam, Tripura and West Bengal, a total amount of ₹2.39 crore was recovered. This includes an



alleged bribe of Rs 1 crore, which exchanged hands and is stated to be one of the biggest bribe money trapped, the CBI had said.

Besides this, there were recoveries of jewellery and documents related to property from the locations of accused.

So far, ₹4.43 crore have been recovered.

The CBI has registered a case against a Chief Administrative Officer of NFR, Mahendra Singh Chauhan and others under relevant sections of IPC and Prevention of Corruption Act.

# NGT directs Telangana PCB to recover ₹1.55 cr from pharma firms for causing pollution



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The National Green Tribunal has directed the Telangana Pollution Control Board (PCB) to recover Rs 1.55 crore penalty from pharmaceutical companies for causing pollution in the state.

A bench headed by NGT Chairperson Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel asked the state PCB to recover the assessed compensation and take coercive measures for default in payment, including closure till compliance is made.

The NGT passed the order after a committee recommended to impose environmental compensation for one year for all pharma formulation industries and six months to Shri Kartikeya Pharma which is engaged in Ayurvedic Ashwagandha extraction, as the pollution load is less.

"In view of the fact that the industrial area in question is a polluted area and the industries

in question are 'red category' industries, strict vigilance is required to be maintained for upholding the environmental norms," the bench said.

The green panel asked Telangana state pollution control board to enforce the principle of 'Polluter Pays' in respect of the units which have been found to be violating the environmental norms.

The tribunal's direction came on a plea filed by advocate Sravan Kumar alleging pollution caused by the pharmaceutical companies at TSIC SEZ in Jadcherla of Mahabubnagar district.

According to the plea these pharma companies are not complying with the pollution laws.

The plea claimed that the companies are not properly maintaining the Effluent Treatment Systems and sought setting aside of approvals granted to them for violating causing severe pollution.

# Climate change may change rainfall patterns in southern India, intensify floods: Study

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Future climate change will cause an uneven shifting of the tropical rain belt — a narrow band of heavy precipitation near the Earth's equator — leading to increased flooding in parts of India, a new study warns.

The study, published in the journal Nature Climate Change, examined computer simulations from 27 state-of-the-art climate models, and measured the tropical rain belt's response to a future scenario in which greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise through the end of the current century.

According to the research, a northward shift of the tropical rain belt over the eastern Africa and the Indian Ocean could result in "intensified flooding in southern India," and may impact global biodiversity and food security by 2100.

The scientists, including those from the University of California (UC) Irvine in the US, said this "sweeping shift" of the rain belt was disguised in previous studies that provided a global average of the influence of climate change.

However, they said climate change caused the atmosphere to heat up by different amounts over Asia.

# 'Members of SC-appointed panel on farm laws neutral'



PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Members of the Supreme Court-appointed panel on farm laws will not let their personal views on these Acts come in the way of their deliberations with various stakeholders, key committee member Anil Ghanwat said on Tuesday, while asserting that they are not on the side of any party or the Government.

After their first meeting here, Ghanwat said the first round of consultations with farmers and other stakeholders has been scheduled for Thursday.

The Supreme Court had set up the four-member panel on January 11, but one of them, Bhupinder Singh Mann, recused himself later after questions were raised by the agitating farmer unions

about the views expressed by all members in the past in support of the contentious laws, against which thousands are protesting on Delhi borders for almost two months now.

Separately, nine rounds of talks have taken place between the government and agitating unions without any concrete resolution. Ghanwat, who is the president of the Shetkari Sanghatana, said the panel will hold its first round of talks with farmers and other stakeholders on January 21.

"The biggest challenge for panel is to convince agitating farmers to come and speak with us. We will try our best," he said.

Ghanwat further said the committee will seek views of farmers and all other stakeholders on the new farm laws, besides the central and state governments.

"Panel members will keep their personal views on farm laws aside while preparing report to be submitted to the Supreme Court," he said.

# India to provide Covid jabs to friendly countries



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following request from several countries for its two vaccines—Covishield and Covaxin, India is all set to provide the jabs under grant assistance to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles, to begin with from Wednesday.

It will also send shipments to Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius as well on receipt of necessary regulatory clearances.

However, India said that it will be ensured that domestic manufacturers will have adequate stocks to meet domestic requirements while supplying abroad.

In a tweet, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India is deeply honoured to be a "long-trusted" partner in meeting the healthcare needs of the global community and that supplies of the vaccines to several countries will commence on Wednesday, and more will follow in the days ahead.

India is one of the world's biggest drugmakers, and an increasing number of countries have already approached it for

procuring the coronavirus vaccines.

The Ministry of External Affairs said India will supply Covid-19 vaccines to partner countries over the coming weeks and months in a phased manner keeping in view the domestic requirements.

In a statement, the MEA said India has received several requests for the supply of Indian-manufactured vaccines from neighbouring and key partner countries.

"In response to these requests, and in keeping with India's stated commitment to use India's vaccine production and delivery capacity to help all of humanity fight the Covid pandemic, supplies under grant assistance to Bhutan, Maldives, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar and Seychelles will begin from January 20," it said.

"In respect of Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and Mauritius, we are awaiting their confirmation of necessary regulatory clearances," it added.

"India fulfils commitment to give vaccines to humanity. Supplies to our neighbours will start on 20th January. The Pharmacy of the World will deliver to overcome the COVID challenge," External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on Twitter.

Meanwhile, Union Health Ministry officials said that the total number of persons found positive with UK strain of

Covid-19 is 141 while daily new Covid cases have touched a new low with 10,064 cases adding up to the national tally in the last 24 hours after seven months. India's total active caseload has dropped to 2 lakh (2,00,528), said the official.

# Centre rushes team to Lakshadweep to contain Covid virus

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With the Union Territory of Lakshadweep reporting its first ever case of Covid-19 on Tuesday, the Union Health Ministry has rushed a team of medical experts to contain the situation there. The index case is a traveler who had come to Lakshadweep from Kochi in Kerala on 4th January 2021 by a ship. "The traveler had reported to hospital with symptoms suggestive of COVID-19 and was tested positive. Initially 31 primary contacts of the patient have been traced and quarantined of which 14 have now been found to be positive and have been isolated.

"56 contacts of positive cases detected so far have also been traced and quarantined. The UT Administration has initiated disinfection procedures and intensive risk-communication activity has been operationalised," said the Ministry.



# Cracks in Gupkar Alliance, Sajad Lone pulls out

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Internal bickering in the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) came to the fore on Tuesday after People's Conference Chairman Sajjad Lone announced the decision to pull out of the alliance, almost a month after the announcement of District Development Council election results.

The Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration was floated by the Kashmir based mainstream political parties ahead of the DDC polls. The PAGD contested the DDC polls on the slogan of restoring the special status of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir and

revoking Abrogation of Article 370 and 35-A.

Sajjad Lone, who was made spokesman of the alliance ahead of the DDC polls, also shot off a three page letter to the Chairman of the Peoples Alliance for Gupkar Declaration Dr Farooq Abdullah citing reasons behind the pull out.

According to the letter circulated in the media by the People's Conference, Sajjad Lone wrote, "There has been a breach of trust between partners which we believe is beyond remedy".

"The majoritarian view in our party is that we should pull out of the alliance in an amicable manner rather than wait-

ing for things to get messier. And I am confirming that we will no longer be a part of the PAGD alliance". Sharing his angst, Sajjad further wrote, "We fought against each other in Kashmir province not against the perpetrators of August 5,2019.

And those who perpetrated August 5 and their minions are now vocally gleeful "Sajjad wrote in the letter. Exposing the facade of unity in the PAGD Sajjad said, "in majority of the places the party fielding the candidate on behalf of PAGD was left to fend for itself and secured the votes that his party managed.

In most places other parties were silent bystanders or

worst compounded the problem by fielding proxy candidates".

"On the face of it, PAGD won these elections unambiguously having won the maximum number of seats. We can't hide statistics and apart from the number of seats that PAGD won, another important statistical variable in the context of August 5 is the number of votes polled against the PAGD.

We believe that the votes polled against the PAGD are majority the votes cast by proxies of PAGD constituent parties against official PAGD candidates. And the net outcome of selectively voting for and against PAGD is a very poor

vote share. This is certainly not the vote share that people of J and K deserved post August 5", Sajjad Lone wrote.

People's Conference, one of the constituents of PAGD, had won a total number of 8 seats in the DDC polls while Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) had won maximum number of 67 seats followed by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) which managed to secure 27 seats. Despite contesting the DDC polls under the banner of PAGD, the party constituents had failed to project a united face after the announcement of poll results. No formal event was organised to 'unitedly' celebrate the victory of the PAGD

candidates.

Referring to the internal audit within his own party, Sajjad said, "It is difficult for us to stay on and pretend as if nothing has happened.

"This alliance needed sacrifice. Every party had to sacrifice on the ground in terms of giving space to fellow allies. No party is willing to cede space, no party is willing to sacrifice" added Sajjad Lone.

"I would however want to add that we are divorcing from the alliance not its objectives. We will continue to adhere to the objectives that we set out when this alliance was made", Sajjad Lone concluded.

## Kerala: Factionalism out in open in Cong ahead of polls

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

A day after the Congress High Command appointed Oommen Chandi, former Chief Minister, as the head of the campaign committee for the upcoming Assembly election in Kerala, discontentment among a section of the party leaders have come out in the open.

Chandi, a two time Chief Minister, has wide acceptability in the Congress as well as in the cross section of the Kerala society. Though he is known for his Christian spiritualism, the Hindus and Muslims in the State have no reservations against him unlike other leaders in the party. A person with more than six decades of clean political life, Chandi is certain to give the ruling CPI(M) a run for their money.

But by Tuesday, group leaders were out in the open challenging Congress president Sonia Gandhi's decision to field the old warhorse as the de facto chief ministerial candidate of the party. Ramesh Chennithala, Leader of the Opposition, made use of his followers in the party to make known his displeasure over the cold shouldering he received from the Congress president.

"You cannot ignore the contributions made by Ramesh Chennithala during the last five years. The precedence in the party has been to appoint the Leader of the Opposition as the Chief Ministerial candidate in the next election," said Chandrasekhar, a faction leader more loyal to Chennithala than the Congress.

The Congress High Command is worried over the powerful Christian lobby's displeasure over the party for its stance on issues like Love Jihad and special privileges to the Muslim community, according to political commentator A Jayashankar. "It is to win over the Christian community that Sonia Gandhi has recalled Chandi to lead the Congress as well as the United Democratic Front," he said.

This was substantiated by P C George, MLA and leader of Jana Paksham, a political outfit in Kerala. "The Marxists regime is discriminating the Christians in the allocation of funds meant for the welfare of minorities. The Muslims are allocated 80 per cent of the resources while the Christians are given a mere 20 per cent. This has definitely antagonised the Catholic Church," said George who is expected to cast his lot with the Congress-led UDF in the upcoming election.

Tuesday's meeting the senior Cardinals of the Church had with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the subsequent statement by Cardinal George Alencherry that the Church does not have any untouchability with the BJP too has to be noted in this context.

Oommen Chandi, at 77, is not in the best of his health. Though the Marxists have left no stones unturned in attacking him and his family members with allegations of all kinds, Chandi came out unscathed and strong. "At the moment he is the one and only leader who is respected widely all over Kerala. He is the right choice for the chief minister's post," said George.

Another person to join the fray is Mullappalli Ramachandran, the president of Pradesh Congress Committee. But Ramachandran's day one as chief minister candidate evoked strong reaction from the Muslim League as the former declared his intention to contest from Kalpetta assembly constituency in Wyandu district. Yahya Khan, the district chief of the Muslim League declared that his party would not give up its claim over Kalpetta, a traditional stronghold of the party.

The CPI(M)-led LDF which is plagued by a number of corruption charges could heave a sigh of relief if Chennithala and Ramachandran sustain their chief ministerial dreams.

## J&K records 113 new Covid cases, 1 death

PTI ■ SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday recorded 113 new coronavirus cases that raised its tally to 1,23,538, while one more fatality pushed the death count to 1,923, officials said.

Of the fresh cases, 53 were recorded from the Jammu division and 60 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, they said.

The officials said Jammu district recorded the highest of 40 cases, followed by 37 in Srinagar district.

While six districts -- Anantnag, Ganderbal, Doda, Rajouri, Reasi and Udhampur -- did not report any new case, 12 other districts had fresh cases in single digits, they said.

The number of active cases dropped to 1,103 in the union territory, while 1,20,512 patients have recovered so far, the officials said.

The UT reported only one COVID-19 related death in the past 24 hours from the Kashmir division, taking the death toll to 1,923, they said,

## 5 new corona cases push Nagaland's tally to 12,066

**Kohima:** Nagaland on Tuesday reported five New COVID-19 cases, pushing the tally in the state to 12,066, a senior Health Department official said.

The number of active COVID-19 cases in the state now is 112, the official said.

Seven more patients recuperated from the disease, taking the total number of recoveries in the state to 11,724, he said.

"5 COVID-19 positive cases 3 in Dimapur and 2 in Kohima were reported today, while 7 patients 5 in Dimapur and 2 in Kohima also recovered during the last 24 hours", said Director of Health and Family Welfare, Dr Denis Hangsing in the daily COVID-19 bulletin.

The recovery rate in the state is 97.16 per cent while the active cases are merely 0.93 per cent of the total caseload, the bulletin said.

Altogether 88 people have succumbed to the disease, of which 78 are due to contagion and 10 had comorbidities, while another 142 patients have migrated to other states, he said. **PTI**

## 14 migrant workers, baby girl killed as truck runs over them in Surat



**Surat:** Thirteen migrant labourers and a year-old-girl from Rajasthan who were sleeping by the roadside in Gujarat's Surat district were among 15 dead after a dumper truck ran over them on Tuesday, police said.

Those killed include eight women and a migrant worker from Madhya Pradesh, police said. While 12 of them died on the spot, three died during treatment at a hospital, police added.

Except for the 19-year-old worker from Madhya Pradesh, all the other deceased were from villages in Banswara district in south Rajasthan, police said.

The tragedy took place near Kosamba village, around 60 km from Surat, police said. The truck driver, who apparently lost control over the vehi-

cle after hitting a sugarcane laden tractor, has been booked under sections of the IPC and Motor Vehicles Act, police said. The truck driver and the vehicle's 'cleaner' were also injured in the accident and are being treated at a hospital.

The truck ran over the migrant construction workers on the Kim-Mandvi road shortly after midnight, Surat SP Usha Rada said.

The truck driver lost control over his vehicle after dashing against the tractor and veered off the road onto the pavement where the workers were sleeping, she said.

"The truck was on its way to Mandvi from Kim. The driver lost control of the vehicle after it hit sugarcane hanging out of the tractor trolley coming from the opposite direction. "The truck's front window

pane shattered on impact, which blocked the driver's vision. The truck then veered off the road and crashed into the sleeping labourers," she said.

Three workers injured in the tragedy are being treated in a nearby hospital, the police official said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that ex-gratia of Rs two lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund would be given to the next of kin of each person killed in the accident and Rs 50,000 would be given to each injured.

"The loss of lives due to a truck accident in Surat is tragic. My thoughts are with the bereaved families. Praying that the injured recover at the earliest," the PMO tweeted, quoting Modi. **PTI**

## Schools for Class 10, 12 reopen in TN with strict Covid precautions

**Chennai:** After a gap of 10 months, Schools were reopened for classes 10 and 12 in Tamil Nadu on Tuesday with students undergoing body temperature and oxygen level checks before entering the premises.

Tamil Nadu government last week announced reopening of schools from January 19 which were shut following the COVID-19 outbreak since March 2020 while Chief Minister K Palaniswami appealed to parents and teachers to extend their full cooperation to the government in its efforts aimed at the welfare of students. With the government directing school administration to allow students not exceeding more than 25 per classroom, those who attended the classes were seen adhering to all COVID-19 protocol including wearing masks and maintaining social distancing.

After being glued to monitors for online classes over the past few months, students today expressed happiness on being

able to attend classes in person, meet friends and teachers, and prepare better for the board examinations.

"Instead of attending classes online, it was good to come and attend classes besides meeting our friends and teachers.Attending classes will also help us prepare better for the board examinations," a student of a government higher secondary school in Tiruchirappalli said.

School authorities also followed government guidelines like allowing only those students who had come with the 'letter of consent' from their respective parents besides checking body temperature and also providing vitamin tablets to the pupils.

Palaniswami, while allowing the students to attend classes, had said based on the opinion of public health and medical experts, district collectors, senior ministers and considering the view of majority of parents, schools shall open only for students of classes 10 and 12. **PTI**

## Injured pachyderm dies at Theppakkadu elephant camp

**Udhagamandalam:** A seriously injured Elephant, under treatment at a town in Nilgiris district, died on Tuesday after it was translocated to the nearby Theppakkadu elephant camp, forest department officials said.

The 40-year-old elephant was found lying near Maravakandi dam on January 15 with a cut ear and was being treated in that town.

However the wound worsened and there was puss formation, following which forest department officials and a veterinarian kept the pachyderm under observation and decided to shift it to Theppakkadu camp. **PTI**

## Girl raped by 38 persons undergoing counselling, 20 arrested so far: Cops

**Malappuram (Kerala):**A 17-year-oldgirl, Who recently disclosed that she had allegedly been sexually abused by 38 persons, is still-undergoing psycho-social counselling, police said on Tuesday. The girl was being counselled at the state-run Nirbhaya Centre here and there was no plan to send her back home, considering her safety, the police said.

Based on the girl's disclosure in November last, a total of 29 cases had been registered so far and 20 persons arrested in this connection, a top police official said.

"We have registered 13 and 16 cases separately. Of the total 40 accused, 20 have already been arrested and wear on a hunt to trace 20 more accused,"district police chief Abdul Karim U told PTI. Of the arrested 20, 15 went out on bail and five were remanded, he said. He said mother was the lone close relative the victim had and it was not safe to send the girlback home.

"The victim continues to undergo counselling at the Nirbhaya centre. Ifhigher-ups seek any report from us in this regard, we will object to sending her back home to join her mother due to safety reasons. We take into considerationher mental condition also," the officer added. The teenager's ordeal came to light during a counselling session at the Nirbhaya centre recently, police said. **PTI**

## Three held for rape, murder of 18-year-old Dalit woman in UP

**Mahoba (UP):** Three people were arrested in Mahoba district of Uttar Pradesh on Tuesday for allegedly raping and killing a Dalit woman, whose body was found hanging from a tree here, police said.

The 18-year-old victim, who was in Class 12, left home to buy vegetables on Saturday afternoon but did not return. Later, her family members found her body hanging from a tree in the Belatal area, Circle Officer Rampravesh Rai had said.

An FIR was registered against the trio, Rohit, Bhupendra and Tarun, on charges of rape and under the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, SHO, Kulpahad police station, Ravindra Tiwari had said. Further investigation is underway, he added.

The woman's aunt told the police on Sunday that she was being harassed by a man in their locality, who was making phone calls to her for the last one month. She alleged that the victim's body was hanged from the tree after she was killed, the officer had said earlier. **PTI**

## Man sentenced to life in jail till death for raping 3 minor girls

**Kota (Raj):** A 27-year-old man was sentenced to life in jail till death for raping three five-to-nine-year-old girls in his village under Simliya police station area of Kota district over three years ago.

A special court set up under provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act sentenced Mithun alias Gajendra Rao after convicting him of the offence of rape and various other offences under the POCSO Act and the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, Public Prosecutor Suresh Verma said on Tuesday.

Special Judge Hanuman Prasad convicted Rao on Monday while observing that "no unnecessary compassion should be displayed" while sentencing such criminals who "affect the entire judicial system and also obliterate public sentiments". The public prosecutor said the judge also imposed a fine of Rs 25,000 on the convict.

The case against Rao was lodged in July 2017 on the complaint of the mother of a nine-year-old girl, accusing him of raping her daughter.

During the investigation of the case, it transpired that Rao had also raped two other girls of the village, aged five and seven years respectively. The police subsequently filed the charge-sheet in the case indicting Rao of all three rapes. **PTI**

# Girl flees uncle's home to escape child marriage, found pursuing nursing course 4 years later

**New Delhi:** A girl who went "missing" from her maternal uncle's house here nearly four years ago has been found by the Delhi Police who said onTuesday that she had left to escape being married off as a minor and is now pursuing a nursing course.

Officials said she had left the house in May 2017, when she would be around 16, and the matter was reported at the Shalimar Bagh police station in northwest Delhi where a kidnapping case was registered and an investigation initiated. The police had in 2019 also announced a reward of Rs 50,000 for anybody providing information that helped to locate her, they said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Crime) Bhisham Singh said, "Our (Crime Branch) team contacted and examined the

relatives, friends and acquaintances of the girl. After analysing Call Detail Records, we found that the girl was somewhere in Bihar." Head Constable Ramdas received an input Monday that the girl was coming to Delhi by a bus and would reach Anand Vihar Inter-state Bus Terminal in the morning, he said.

Based on this tip-off, a team was sent to the ISBT and the girl was found, he said. He said the girl told the police her parents had passed away when she was a child and she and her brother used to live with her maternal uncle in Delhi.

"When she was in Class 10, her maternal uncle was forcing her to marry a person of his choice, but she did not want to get married as she was interested in studying further. So she left her maternal uncle's house in 2017 without telling any-

one and reached her maternal grandmother's house in Samastipur district of Bihar," he said. None of her relatives visited her in the Bihar house and her maternal grandmother too did not inform anyone about her being there and supported her in pursuing her studies, according to the DCP.

She completed her school education and took admission in a nursing course in Samastipur, the DCP said. The girl was not aware that an FIR had been lodged in this regard, he said, adding the Crime Branch handed her to the Shalimar Bagh Police Station, where the cases was registered.

The police then presented her before the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) and further action will be taken in the matter on the direction of CWC. **PTI**



Youngsters play with sleds on a snow laden hilltop after heavy snowfall on the outskirts of Srinagar on Tuesday

PTI



## Gabba forever!

The 2020-21 Australian tour will remain etched in the memory of Indian cricket fans as long as they live



One month ago, editorials across newspapers were bemoaning the state of Indian cricket. An almost full-strength Indian cricket team was bowled out for 36 runs in Adelaide and, despite drawing the white-ball matches three-all, many feared the worst in the forthcoming Tests. After all, India’s talismanic batsman and captain Virat Kohli was headed home to be with his wife for the birth of their first child. Injuries had begun to take their toll even before the first match and, given Australia’s strict two-week quarantine rules, flying in replacements at a moment’s notice was actually impossible. Foreign commentators, always quick to slam India, predicted a whitewash. Yet, somehow in an incredible show of resilience and extraordinary leadership and batsmanship by stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane, India won the second Test at Melbourne, the best possible gift they could have given Indian cricket fans heading into the start of the new year after what had been a truly woeful 2020 for almost everyone. In and of itself, that was a great story of redemption, coming back from Indian cricket’s worst moment in contemporary history to win handsomely. Many compared that moment to the heroics of VVS Laxman and Rahul Dravid at the Eden Gardens two decades ago. But that was a simple redemption story; this play needed a third act. An act that began with the first match of the new year in Sydney, where a brave Indian second-innings rearguard performance prevented the hosts from winning the Test.

But the play ended in Australia’s fortress of the Gabba in Brisbane, a ground where the home team had not lost in over three decades. And India playing essentially their second XI, giving a part-timer Washington Sundar — who had not played a first-class match in three years — his first cap and boasting a bowling line-up with just five caps among them. On top of that, a young batting line-up was facing an experienced Australian pace battery and a spin bowler playing his hundredth Test. India’s heroics at Melbourne and Sydney were commendable, but most Indian cricket fans thought that a draw at the Gabba would be a great result. The last Test of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series will remain etched in the minds and memory of the cricket aficionados as the ultimate decider that tested the resilience, composure and physical fitness of the players. The young and largely inexperienced Indian team battled it all in this Test series, within themselves and with the world outside: Issues with facilities, racial slurs, losing key players at crucial junctures, injury after injury, issues with bubble life for multiple months *et al*. However, the actions of one of India’s former heroes, Rahul Dravid, in shaping this new Indian team under his tutelage as the coach of India’s ‘A’ team must not be dismissed. There was a sense of resilience in this team that ‘The Wall’ himself would have been proud of. Not only did Washington Sundar and Shardul Thakur play the most unexpectedly pleasant seventh-wicket partnership, keeping India in the game in the first innings, Shubman Gill, Cheteshwar Pujara, the senior man whose body faced blow after blow, and finally Rishabh Pant, the Delhi boy whose abilities have been openly questioned and in whose perseverance in the team many allegations of favouritism have been thrown at India’s management, a young India found its new cricketing heroes. This is more than a redemption story, this is more than a coming-of-age story; this is an epic, a story for the ages. The Indian cricket team’s grit and determination, particularly by a group of inexperienced young men is a story for the ages. When India won the 2011 World Cup at the Wankhede Stadium, they got an open-top bus ride through Mumbai and while COVID-19 protocols might mean that this team cannot get one, make no mistake, they truly deserve it.

## Remove Chinese hamlet

The Govt, Opposition trade barbs over reports of a village having come up in a disputed area of Arunachal Pradesh



Even as India and China are locked in a bitter border standoff in eastern Ladakh for over eight months, and both the countries have held several rounds of military and diplomatic dialogue in order to resolve the standoff but without making any significant headway, reports have emerged that China has built a village comprising 120 houses five km inside the disputed territory in Arunachal Pradesh. The provocative development, which ostensibly pertains to November last year, was detected by satellite images taken by Planet Labs. This is the same area where the People’s Liberation Army (PLA) had detained five locals last year. The village is on the banks of the Tsari Chu river in the Upper Subansiri

district and China has all along disputed India’s ownership claim over the area. It is feared that China wants to maintain pressure on India by opening several fronts along the 3,488-km Line of Actual Control (LAC), stretching from Ladakh in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east. The development has understandably rung alarm bells in India’s security establishment and the Opposition has also rolled up its sleeves to take on the Government. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi trained his guns on Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the issue of national security after the development was reported. “Remember his promise — ‘*Mai desh jhukne nahi dunga*’,” Rahul wrote on Twitter. Randeep Surjewala, another Congress leader, also slammed the Prime Minister, asking: “...Where is the ‘56-inch chest’?” Returning the fire, BJP president JP Nadra said that the scion, his party and family had repeatedly lied on the issue of China: “When will Rahul Gandhi, his dynasty and the Congress stop lying on China? Can he deny that thousands of km, including the one in Arunachal Pradesh he is referring to, was gifted by none other than Nehru to the Chinese? Time and again, why does Congress surrender to China?” The BJP chief added: “Does Rahul Gandhi have any intention to cancel the Congress party’s MoU with China and their Communist Party? Does he intend to return the Chinese largesse to trusts controlled by his family? Or will their policies and practices continue to be dictated by Chinese money and MoU?”

For its part, the Government has “taken note of the construction” along the border and ramped up its infrastructure development projects. The Indian security establishment maintains that the coming up of this village is in violation of several agreements between the countries. The pacts clearly say both countries to “safeguard due interests of their settled population in the border areas” and “strictly respect and observe the LAC”. This piece of land was apparently under Chinese occupation since 1965 but, as disputed territory, no country should change the *status quo* as per international law. “If this is true, it is clear that the Chinese have altered the *status quo* by converting a disputed area into a permanent settlement of Chinese nationals. What does the Government have to say about these startling facts?” Congress leader P Chidambaram said. If the Government’s claim that it is Indian territory is correct, it should unequivocally take up the matter with Beijing and get the settlement removed. Earlier on June 15-16, 2020, Indian and Chinese troops had clashed on the Galwan valley ridges at a height of nearly 14,000 ft; at least 76 Indian soldiers were reportedly injured in addition to the 20 dead. Indian intercepts also revealed that the Chinese side suffered 43 casualties.

# Indefensibility of amorality

Though only three US Presidents have been tainted with the blot, Donald Trump is the only one who has faced two impeachments



BHOPINDER SINGH

Impeachment is essentially symbolic, but the sort of sticky symbolism with a moral dimension that stands the test of time. History books that transcend time and lives bear the impeached person’s name with an unflattering asterisk of transgression. Only three Presidents of the United States (US), out of the 45 that preceded Joe Biden, were tainted with this blot, with Donald Trump going down in posterity as the unique one, with two impeachments! The Constitution of the US describes acts that are deemed “treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanours” to be impeachment-worthy. Beyond the legality of formal conviction in a classic justice sense, impeachment is tantamount to abuse of public and constitutional trust, with possible intersection of legal criminality, subsequently. But the man whom the usually reserved Dalai Lama suggested had a “lack of moral principle”, i.e. Trump, remains brazen and unrepentant.

Others like Richard Nixon, who had faced a near-certain prospect of getting impeached, had resigned from office just before impeachment. The other two impeached US Presidents, Andrew Johnson and Bill Clinton, had in hindsight considerably less deleterious and violative portents to democracy as compared to the ingloriousness of Trump’s acts. Andrew Johnson, arguably a racist himself who had succeeded the colossus of democracy, Abraham Lincoln, was impeached for a technicality of violating the Tenure of Office Act when he removed a federal appointee without consulting the Senate. History reflects that impeachment as more of a partisan act that seized upon an unacceptable presidential action but perhaps not warranting the burden of impeachment. Similarly, Bill Clinton had perjured himself by lying to the investigators about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky, as also encouraging the White House staff to toe the said line. The undeniable dereliction and misconduct was perhaps still short of breaching the high rails of “treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanours”. The fine difference was illustrated by a rival Republican Senator, Susan Collins, who agreed that Clinton had conducted himself disgracefully, but perhaps short of



a crime, when she still voted against the impeachment by stating: “In voting to acquit the President, I do so with grave misgivings for I do not mean in any way to exonerate this man.” Bill Clinton was visibly, and admittedly, embarrassed and repentant.

Trump was, on the other hand, first impeached for the abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. He had allegedly pushed Ukraine to snoop into the commercial affairs of his ultimate nemesis, Joe Biden, and therefore enlisted a foreign power in corrupting the democratic elections. Trump had also withheld military funds from the Ukrainians in order to coerce them to do so. But Trump’s misdemeanours had continued with his denialist approach by further ordering the Executive Branch to not comply with the Congressional subpoenas for the trailing documents and testimonies. However, unlike the bipartisan expressions that surrounded the Clinton or Nixon build-up, Trump had managed to polarise and divide the nation into extremities that ensured that, barring one Republican Senator, all had acquiesced blindly to Trump. The second Trump impeachment was unprecedented in its

seriousness of accusative import, “incitement for insurrection”. The self-interest of Republicans, which was in play to defend Trump during the first impeachment on partisan lines, was equally visible in the second impeachment, with 10 Republican Senators disassociating themselves from supporting Trump, owing to worse consequences in repeating their partisan decision. The Joint Chief of Staff had issued an internal memo that sought to remind the uni-formed fraternity of their sole fidelity to the Constitution and alluded to the potential disruption of the Biden inauguration as “against the law” — further suggesting the graveness of the unconstitutionality that Trump was accused of.

The weight of the 10 Republicans who bolted out of the Trump bandwagon is much more than its arithmetical significance, as it is about the assertion of bipartisan courage, democratic values and basic common sense. In many ways, this internal dissenting note has allowed the Republicans of absolve and permanently cleanse themselves of Trumpism, post-January 20, 2021. While the impeachment process was rushed through the last days of Trump’s presi-

dency, its necessity is contextualised to the public healing of the shame of “coup” and offering a restorative opportunity and agenda for bipartisan politics hereinafter. The singular Republican who had yielded to the dictates of his personal conscience in voting against Trump’s first impeachment, Mitt Romney, noted evocatively in Trump’s second “coming” that there must be “meaningful consequences” when a President incites an attack against the Congress and, more importantly, against all known tenets of democracy.

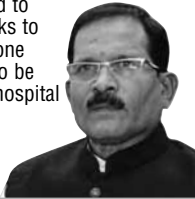
Opinions now abound that the new President, Biden, need not federally prosecute Trump and sustain the divisive and inflammatory ‘Donald Trump show’ to linger, irate passions and sustain dangerous rumours. Trump’s descent into indefensible infamy and notoriety that had toyed with reckless ideas like attacking Iran before elections, imposing quasi-martial law or actually triggering social unrest by insisting upon his allegations of “fraudulent elections”, “can’t play in the hands of these people”, “elections that were stolen” and suchlike, has already brought the US to the unthinkable brink of anarchy and civil war. The isolation of Trump among his

own party leaders and ostensible loyalists has shifted gears from private murmurs behind closed doors to open calls for introspection within. The triggers for the much-needed course correction have not been the legality, but the loss of morality, surrounding Trump’s indefensibility. In a shifting sign of times, Republican leader Mitch McConnell had freed Republican Senators from toeing any party line and, instead, urged them to “vote with their conscience”; the subliminal writing on the wall for Trump is unmistakable. Indeed, Trump will be expected to continue his slanderous rants, unsubstantiated falsehoods and desperation to retain the centre-stage but the loss of moral high ground for the Republican Party, going forward, will drop Trump from the only political anchorage that sustains his relevance. It is not the electoral triumphs, unchallenged dominance or legality in the court, but the diminishment of morality as captured in this symbolic impeachment that ended a destructive streak and individual.

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

## SOUNDBITE

I have finally managed to see the daylight, thanks to blessings from everyone and God. I am likely to be discharged from the hospital in four to five days.



MoS Defence Shripad Naik

The EU has planned to start raising and allocating in the next few months the main part of the \$906 billion recovery fund to bail out the bloc’s economies hit by COVID.



EU commissioner (economy) Paolo Gentiloni

The characters that are my favourite are not liked by people much. I am not saying that the audience is wrong. It’s just that my likes and dislikes are different.



Actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui

I am terribly sorry because it is not nice to say goodbye to the coach. It’s my decision and I take responsibility for this decision.



Polish FA president Zbigniew Boniek

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### BJP’s poll gimmick

Sir — The decision of the Central Government to observe the birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose that falls on January 23 as “Parakram Diwas” from now on is a political stunt with an eye on the forthcoming West Bengal Assembly elections. It is a move to appease voters in West Bengal. Netaji is our real hero who fought for the freedom of the nation and floated the Azad Hind Fauj to fight for India’s independence. The Governments latest move reeks of dirty politics as the BJP or the NDA Government did not have time to remember Netaji during the last six years. But the people of Bengal are wise enough to not fall into such traps and vote judiciously on the basis of the work done and schemes floated by the Government.

We, as responsible citizens, must rise to the occasion and show the door to such politicians and parties. The BJP must stop fooling and misguiding people and should concentrate on real issues like unemployment, malnutrition, poverty, illiteracy, health and so on.

**Bhagwan Thadani**  
Mumbai

### Pride justifiable, but don’t go overboard

This refers to the editorial ‘*Diaspora power*’ (January 19). It is heartening that President-elect Joe Biden has appointed as many as 20 Indian-Americans in the US Administration, with 17 of them at various positions in the White House — 13 out of 20 also happen to be women. Leading the charge is, of course, Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris. But from finance and management to health, law to Press relations, foreign policy to national security, those who trace their roots to India have found space.

This is indeed a reflection of how well the Indian-Americans have done in that country. It also reflects their talent and acumen and, more importantly, none of these appointments have raised any eyebrows. But even as India takes justifiable pride in the achievements of these individuals, it is important to remember that all those who are in the new administration are American citizens. Their first loyalty is to the US Constitution and American national interests as defined by the President who has appointed them. Yes, their presence will enhance understanding of India in the administration and is symbolic of close ties. But these individuals have their own

### Audience verdict is final

Sir — It refers to the editorial ‘*OTT Tandav*’ (January 19). It seems that such controversies serve the interests of both the film makers and political parties as these give the much-needed publicity to a web series and also help the political parties in polarising society. The films, as well as seri-

als, are called the mirror of society, reflecting exactly what’s happening. The flip side is that moviemaking is a professional line where the *raison d’être* happens to be the business alone.

The fact that every movie or serial has to undergo scrutiny as per the guidelines laid down by the Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry



N Sadhasiva Reddy  
Bengaluru

varied social and political influences and worldviews. India would do well to cultivate them, as it would cultivate any US official at high levels, but respect their identity beyond their Indian roots. India must look forward to further strengthen ties with America and keep the relationship dynamic and in the best interests of both the nations. The world is keenly watching.

**Azhar A Khan**  
Rampur

before release notwithstanding, one or the other controversy keeps raising its ugly head every now and then. It is really disappointing and shows that such controversies are politically motivated. We, as audiences, should use our wisdom to judge what is offensive and what is not.

### Respect the Tricolour

Sir — It is very unfortunate that every year after the Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations, hundreds of flags are strewn on pavements and streets and people keep stomping on them. We must remember that the national flag is our pride and we must respect the symbol of democracy, freedom and brotherhood.

Similarly, we must respect our national anthem and national song. It is often seen that even when the national anthem is being played on radio or television, many people don’t stand up to pay respect. They are busy talking on their mobile phones or chatting with their friends. The Independence Day and Republic Day represent the true spirit of independent India and mark the patriotic fervour of all Indians who celebrate these events with great enthusiasm. By disrespecting our national symbols like the Tricolour, we inadvertently disrespect our freedom fighters, our Constitution and our nation.

**Jubel D’Cruz**  
Mumbai

Send your feedback to: [letterstopioneer@gmail.com](mailto:letterstopioneer@gmail.com)



FIRST COLUMN

Unite for the sake of the nation



KALYANI SHANKAR

The forthcoming Budget Session of Parliament is likely to be a boisterous one, with a lot of controversial issues expected to be raised by the Opposition. Although Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi has stated that the Narendra Modi Government is ready to face all the issues, the Opposition is sharpening its knives. This Parliament session is important as it is the first one of the year. Though it is being held amid the COVID-19 pandemic, all protocols will be in place to protect the members. The Parliament session will commence on January 29 and conclude by April 8, with a recess of 20 days between February 15 and March 8. President Ram Nath Kovind will address the customary joint session on January 29. This will be followed by the placing of the Economic Survey the next day and on February 1, the Union Budget will be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. It will be her third consecutive one. Budget making in the middle of a raging pandemic is a difficult process and breaking the age-old tradition the Finance Ministry will not print the Union Budget for 2021 and will go paperless. All eyes are on the Government as the Budget would shed light on how the Centre allocates the funds to different sectors. Almost all the pillars of the economy are affected and it is going to be a challenge to balance revenue and expenditure. Sitharaman has promised to build a “stronger economy” and stated that the Budget will be an unprecedented one, as never before in living memory has a Government faced a situation “where tax collections are struggling to keep up with the budgeted number” and “the demand for goods and services is sluggish.”

The Opposition has enough ammunition to attack the Government with, including the COVID vaccination drive, the ongoing farmers’ agitation, the struggling economy, China’s aggressive postures, price rise, the job loss scenario, the continuation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) agitation, the plan to construct a new Parliament building, allegedly at a budget of ₹20,000 crore and so on. A senior Congress leader claims that though the political parties stayed away from the farmers’ agitation but in Parliament, they will be vocal about their support to the growers. The Opposition plans to question the Government on employment generation, reverse migration, the border impasse with China and Indo-Pakistan relations, the Government’s handling of the pandemic and the vaccination drive that was kicked off on January 16. Plus, weak States would seek more financial assistance to deal with the pandemic and the Health Ministry and other important sectors need more allocation of funds. The Finance Minister has said: “The Budget would take note of all the inputs received from the health sector to take this forward.”

The Government is also getting ready with some key legislation like the Personal Data Protection Bill, pending Bills from last year, including the DNA Technology (Use and Application) Regulation Bill, the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (Amendment) Bill, the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill and the Dam Safety Bill.

However, the big question is whether the highly divided Opposition will be effective in cornering the Government in Parliament? There is no leader tall enough to unite them, although Congress chief Sonia Gandhi tries to hold a meeting before the Parliament session each year. However, the Congress is undergoing a crisis with a section of leaders questioning the Gandhi family. The party has bought time with the promise of an AICC session in early 2021. According to senior Congress leader Anand Sharma, there will be floor coordination. There are speculations that the non-BJP, non-Congress Opposition might unite under Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) chief Sharad Pawar.

Though the BJP is close to getting a majority in the Rajya Sabha, the strategy is to divide the Opposition to get even controversial legislations passed. That was how the NDA Government managed to get legislation like the triple *talaa*, the CAA, repeal of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir, passed. The Opposition should change its strategy of walkouts, rushing to the Well of the House and so on and instead focus on participating in debates and raising issues so that the Government is forced to answer questions. The lawmakers should fulfil their duty of scrutinising the Budget and keep the Government on its toes. The way a responsible Opposition would function is to use the Question Hour, Calling Attention Motions and debate on the President’s address to hold the Government accountable. On its part, the Government, too, should take the Opposition into confidence. Sadly for the nation, both believe in confrontation. With elections to five States on the horizon, all the parties will play to the gallery. It is a matter of concern that the country lacks a strong and vigilant Opposition because a vibrant democracy needs one. The Opposition parties should show a united face in Parliament. When the late Rajiv Gandhi won 403 seats in 1984, the Opposition with a dozen vocal leaders, highlighted the Bofors Scam successfully, which led to his ouster. So it is not the numbers that matter but the strategy to deal with the Government that is important. It is high time the Opposition stood united and formed a strategy to keep the Government on its toes.

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

POINTCOUNTERPOINT

YOU MAY WIN MANY ELECTIONS BUT I VOW FROM THIS HOLY LAND OF NANDIGRAM THAT I WILL NEVER ALLOW THE BJP TO ENTER BENGAL. —WEST BENGAL CHIEF MINISTER MAMATA BANERJEE





I TAKE A VOW TODAY THAT IF I CANNOT DEFEAT HER (MAMATA) IN NANDIGRAM BY A MARGIN OF HALF A LAKH VOTES, I WILL QUIT POLITICS. —BJP LEADER SUVENDU ADHIKARI

A tricky situation

Islam does not allow conversions for the sake of marriage. One has to convert out of love for the religion and not for any other reason. But still forced conversions take place in India and Pak



BISWAJEET BANERJEE LUBNA NAQVI

Forced conversions are not new in the subcontinent. Reports regularly pour in from India as well as Pakistan about illegal conversions of women/girls through force, deceit or other methods which are in contravention of the law of the land. The issue was highlighted after the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Government brought a legislation termed the Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, that is meant to stop forceful conversion of women/girls from other religions to Islam, which the Right-wing sympathisers call the “Love Jihad Act.” Around the same time in Pakistan, a report claimed that about 1,000 women/girls are converted to Islam every year in the country.

It is the minority community which faces the brunt of an interfaith marriage, when it goes wrong. In India, Muslims who are in a minority, account for 15 per cent of the population while minority Hindus make up 1.60 per cent of the total population of Pakistan. Likewise, the Christian population comprises of 1.59 per cent of the total population of the Islamic Republic. Both the countries are facing the problem of conversion of non-Muslim women/girls. Sometimes this change of faith is coerced and many a time it is by mutual consent. But in both the cases sparks fly, creating a law and order problem.

Human Rights activist and advocate in Pakistan’s Supreme Court, M Shoaib Ashraf says: “There is no law to stop forced conversion in our country. But it is also true that Islam does not allow conversions for the sake of marriage. This is considered exploitation of the faith. One has to convert out of the love for the religion and not for any other reason.”

However, the Indian Constitution upholds that the right to marry is a component of the right to life which comes under Article 21. It states: “No person shall be deprived of his life and personal liberty except according to the procedure established by law.”

Delivering a historic judgment in the Hadiya and Shefin Jahan case, Justice DY Chandrachud of the Supreme Court of India said: “The choice of a partner whether within or outside marriage lies within the exclusive domain of each individual. Intimacies of marriage lie within a core zone of privacy, which is inviolable. The absolute right of an individual to choose a life partner is not in the least affected by matters of faith. The Constitution guarantees to each individual the right to freely practise, profess and propagate religion. Choices of faith and belief as indeed choices in matters of marriage lie within an area where individual autonomy is supreme.

“They form the essence of personal liberty under the Constitution. Matters of belief and faith, including whether to believe, are at the core of constitutional liberty. The Constitution exists for believers as well as for agnostics...Matters of dress and of food, of ideas and ideologies, of love and partnership are within the central aspects of identity....Society has no role to play in determining our choice of partners.”

The courts in both the countries are working effectively to protect the rights of citizens when it comes to forced conversions. Recently, while hearing a case pertaining to a 14-year-old girl who had converted, the Lahore High Court gave a judgment that religion is a matter of heart and conviction and the court cannot adjudicate on such matters.

“ DESPITE THE JUDICIARY PROTECTING THE INSTITUTION OF MARRIAGE AND PRIVACY OF A PERSON, THE ISSUE OF INTERFAITH MARRIAGE HAS BEEN USED BY POLITICAL PARTIES AND ORGANISATIONS IN BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN TO FURTHER THEIR PERSONAL INTERESTS. THIS SITUATION EMERGES AS A BLOT ON A CIVILISED SOCIETY AND SHOULD END AS IT OFTEN LEADS TO VIOLENCE AND RELIGIOUS CLASHES ”



While delivering the verdict the court said: “What one believes in his or her heart is not a judicial matter.” These decisions hold good when an interfaith marriage carries the purity and virtue which the institution of marriage espouses. However, incidents of forced conversions are galore and sometimes they take a political hue.

On August 21, the Meerut police recovered the bodies of Priya and her daughter Kashish. They were allegedly killed by Shamshad. Priya, a divorcee, befriended Shamshad on a social networking site where he impersonated himself as Amit Gurjar — a Hindu. When Priya came to know about the truth she protested. In another case the Budaun police arrested Asif who posed as a Hindu man called Rajkumar and befriended Neha. A year later he allegedly killed her when she came to know of the truth.

But then, there are cases of true love where a person converts to another religion freely or wants to marry out of their own community/religion of their own free will. For instance, take the case of Muskan (Pinki) who married Rashid in Dehradun in July 2020. They duly informed the Superintendent of Police as required under the Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Act, 2018. But both Rashid and Muskan were arrested under the new law when they paid a visit to Moradabad in UP. Muskan was pregnant at that time and later she alleged that she lost her baby because of police atrocity.

In the last two months, as many as 86 people have been named in 16 First Information Reports (FIRs) since the notification of the new Ordinance in the State. Out of these, 79 are Muslims, who have been slapped with charges of enticing a woman/girl and forcing her to convert to Islam. In one case 26 people, including five women, were booked in Etah for allegedly converting a 21-year-old woman by force. In Mau, 16 people have been named in an FIR whereas in Sitapur, 14 were booked in another such incident.

However, in Pakistan there is no law to stop forced conversions. “In the absence of legislation explicitly banning and criminalising forced conversion from minority religions to Islam, the affected families (mainly Hindus, Sikhs and Christians) have to use other laws, including those against kidnapping, forced marriage, child marriage and rape of minors to penalise the offender,” says Tahira Abdullah, a social activist.

Ashraf says that in the absence of a law in Pakistan, if the victim claims she has converted on her own, there is little that can be done to prove her wrong. “We cannot determine what is behind the consent. If a girl from a poor family converts to marry a man from a rich background, there is no way to know whether she has converted out of love or if she has been lured. But this should also in a way be considered an unlawful thing as some form of coercion has always been used,” he says.

Jibran Nasir, advocate and lead campaigner at Never Forget Pakistan and trustee Elaj Trust, says: “Young girls are kidnapped and converted and video messages are circulated in which the girl says that she is happy after being converted. We argue in court that girls do not necessarily scream or shout, for us to know that it is a forced conversion. Forced conversion is a crime whether one who is coerced openly admits it or not.”

The coerced conversion, especially of young Hindu and Christian girls in Sindh and Punjab province in Pakistan, continues unabated in absence of explicit laws criminalising it. According to data

provided by the Centre for Social Justice, Pakistan between 2013 and 2020 the highest number of cases of alleged forced conversions were in Punjab (52 per cent) followed by Sindh (44 per cent). “A clause on forced conversion, inserted into a draft law by Hindu legislators, was actually removed before enactment in Sindh province and it has repeatedly failed enactment in the national Parliament, despite clear directives from the Supreme Court of Pakistan,” says Abdullah.

Ashraf seconds her claims saying that the term forced conversion is very vague in Pakistan. “It denotes some form of force being used — whether verbal, physical or psychological like threats to family. When the same person is brought to court and they say they have converted of their own will, there is not much the court can do about it,” he says.

In Pakistan on the insistence of the family, the court can send the person to some safe place so as to give them some time and space to review their decision. The courts have no criteria to determine if force was used except if the person tells the judges that there was no coercion. Experts opine that the courts can only give decisions based on legal provisions and not beyond.

Despite the judiciary protecting the institution of marriage and privacy of a person, the issue of interfaith marriage has been used by political parties and organisations in both India and Pakistan to further their personal interests. This situation emerges as a blot on a civilised society and should end as it often leads to violence and religious clashes.

*(Banerjee is Executive Director, (News), The Pioneer, Lucknow, India while Lubna is Freelance Journalist and Human Right activist, based in Karachi. The views expressed are personal.)*

Reopen schools for younger children soon

By cutting off or limiting access to education, the pandemic has worsened existing inequalities and hampered the economic growth of poor families



SURESH KUMAR

Nearly 10 months after the nationwide lockdown began, India is now in the process of reopening its schools, albeit, in a phased manner, with all COVID protocols in place. However, most States that have decided to reopen schools are only allowing grade 10 and 12 students to attend classes. The younger children are still confined to their homes and online classes will continue till it is deemed fit to open all schools fully, from nursery to grade 12.

It is a sad fact that many children from vulnerable communities in India depend on schools for one

square meal a day. The Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme was the reason many went to school. The closure of schools hit underprivileged children the most, because not only were they hungry, they did not have a smartphone, laptop or internet connection to continue their education online, unlike their privileged counterparts.

According to a study by Oxfam India, as many as 80 per cent of Indian students were unable to access online schooling during the lockdown and many might not even return to classrooms when they eventually reopen for everyone.

Many of these children were the first in their family to attend school and get an education. Their parents and grandparents never got a chance to do so because of various socio-economic reasons. By cutting off or limiting access to education, the pandemic has effectively worsened existing inequalities and hampered the economic growth of low-income families. In a country where over half the population is below the age of 25, lack of access to education is a

deterrent which will prevent children from becoming contributing and productive members of society.

Government data suggest that despite having 600 million internet users, only 20 per cent know how to leverage the same. If one glances through the latest National Family Health Survey (NFHS), over 60 per cent women in 12 States and Union Territories have never used the internet, which begs the question: How will their children study online? The absence of digital literacy programmes in the country is a glaring gap, which came to the forefront once the schools shut down and education went online. According to a Telecom Regulatory Authority of India survey, Bihar — a State where child trafficking for sex and cheap labour is rampant — has the lowest number of internet subscribers in the country with just 32 people in every 100 having access to it.

Yes, the lockdown was announced to curb the spread of a highly contagious virus. But even as India began to “unlock” in phases,

schools continued to remain shut. Earlier, daily wage earners, who were working in the informal sector, with no social security went to work knowing that their children were safe at school. Now, because of the pandemic, their children accompany them to work sites. They are picking up the trade. They are struggling like their parents and their chance to build a different life is being snatched away from them. In addition to this, their parents no longer have steady jobs. Hence, they are struggling to make ends meet, are no longer being paid and are having to resort to borrowing funds from moneylenders, friends and other family members.

Several organisations which are working against child labour have reported that moneylenders are charging alarmingly high interest rates. They also report that several people are having to borrow money for their daily needs such as food and water. A lot of these people are extremely poor and are suffering from some form of debt bondage. They are mostly Dalits, who have

spent the majority of their lives in servitude and slavery.

They often borrow money but are unable to pay the same back and, therefore, have to “work off” the debts. Often this means that their child is also put to work. Take the example of 12-year-old Rahul from Gaya, Bihar, who has been completely deprived of any learning opportunity in his village since the pandemic began. As a result of the same, he has fallen into the trap of child trafficking. Before the pandemic began, his father, under duress, gave consent to a trafficker, because of which Rahul was employed in a bangle factory in Jaipur. He was lucky enough to have been rescued (in Jaipur) before being taken to the factory. He and 29 other minors from the same district were rescued from a luxury bus that was engaged in transporting children all the way from Gaya to Jaipur. All the 30-odd students were enrolled in different schools and were regular with their classes before the lockdown was imposed. Now they remain unoccupied, bored and vul-

nerable to predatory traffickers.

The United Nations’ policy brief on the impact of COVID-19 on the world’s education system points to the fact that the closure of schools and other learning spaces has impacted up to 99 per cent of students in low and middle-income countries. It warns that the effects on child labour and trafficking could be enormous. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO), 152 million minors worldwide are involved in child labour, of which 73 million are involved in slavery, bonded labour, dangerous work and sexual exploitation. It is feared that in poorer countries, many children will completely lose their connection to education and will not return to school at all, as they have to contribute to their family income. They have started believing that their family can no longer afford to educate them and most of the time this is true. India has the highest number of child labourers. According to the Census 2011, there are 10.13 million child workers. The ILO’s 2016 data

indicates that there are 23.8 million child labourers in India. Schools and programmes for children, such as protection centres or youth clubs, are also currently failing in their function as early warning systems. The pandemic has effectively hidden from sight occurrences of domestic violence in families as well as attempts by local child traffickers or moneylenders to recruit children as workers. The focus must now be to ensure the safety of students and teachers. All stakeholders must put in place protocols for reopening of schools even for the younger children. There has to be an extensive assessment on the learning loss and a well thought out plan to bridge the gap and schemes to retain students. The Government will also have to arrange for funds required to equip both schools and students in rural India to continue their learning journey.

*(The writer is Executive Director, Center DIRECT, Human Liberty Network. The views expressed are personal.)*



# Biden Admin will engage the world ‘as it is’, not ‘as it was’: Blinken

**Washington:** Underlining America's 'growing rivalry' with China and Russia, US Secretary of State-designate Antony Blinken on Tuesday said the Biden administration will engage the world "as it is" and not "as it was", indicating that the diplomacy of the next president would be driven by ground realities.

Blinken, a close confidant of President-elect Joe Biden, in his prepared testimony to the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations ahead of his confirmation hearing also did not rule out a military intervention overseas if the lives of Americans were at stake.

"Working across government and with partners around the world, we will revitalise American diplomacy to take on the most pressing challenges of our time. We'll show up again, day-in, day-out whenever and wherever the safety and well-being of Americans is at stake," said Blinken, a foreign policy expert.

"We'll engage the world not as it was, but as it is. A world of rising nationalism, receding democracy, growing rivalry with China, Russia, and other authoritarian states, mounting threats to a stable and open interna-

tional system, and a technological revolution that is reshaping every aspect of our lives, especially in cyberspace," said 58-year-old Blinken, who if confirmed by the Senate, will succeed Mike Pompeo as the next Secretary of State.

Blinken is expected to be confirmed by the Senate soon after Biden is sworn in as the president on January 20.

On Tuesday, a day before the inauguration, Senate committees are also holding confirmation hearings of Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas and Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines. In his prepared testimony, Blinken said, "For all that has changed, some things remain constant. American leadership still matters."

"The reality is that the world doesn't organise itself. When we're not engaged, when we don't lead, then one of two things happen: either some other country tries to take our place, but probably not in a way that advances our interests or values. Or no one does, and then you get chaos. Either way, that does not serve the American people," he said. **PTI**

## Biden nominee says intel won't be politicised

**Washington:** President-elect Joe Biden's pick for national intelligence director is planning to tell Senate lawmakers that intelligence and national security issues will not be politicised under her watch. Avril Haines faces a confirmation hearing on Tuesday before the Senate intelligence committee.

Haines will also tell lawmakers that the Office of the Director of National Intelligence must not shy away from "speaking truth to power" even if inconvenient or difficult. That's according to excerpts of her prepared remarks released ahead of the hearing.

Haines served in the Obama administration as deputy director of the CIA and deputy national security adviser.

If confirmed, Haines would be tasked with restoring stability to an intelligence community that has been repeatedly denigrated by President Donald Trump. She would also be the first woman to hold the position. **AP**

## It's not going to be easy, says Kamala Harris on challenges facing America

**Washington:** Vice President-elect Kamala Harris has acknowledged the challenges that lie ahead for Joe Biden when he will be sworn in as the 46th President of the United States on Wednesday, saying "it is not going to be easy."

Biden enters the White House on January 20 with the top challenge to lift the country from the devastation of a raging pandemic that has killed more than 398,000 Americans and thrown millions into economic distress.

"We're going into Wednesday knowing that we're ready to do the work, and we've got a lot of work to do. It's not going to be easy," Harris told reporters at Martha's Table in Anacostia here on Monday, observing the National Day of Service.

Every year on the third Monday in January, Americans honour the slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., who in the 1950s and 1960s organised non-violent protests for Black equality and voting rights.

The holiday traditionally features people commemorating King's work by participating in community service projects. However, both the pandemic and warnings of violence in cities across the country following the January 6 insurrection by pro-Trump supporters in the US Capitol affected the events this year.

"As we have discussed, Joe has outlined our plan for vaccinations, our plan for recovery, and in particular relief for working people, for families. And there is a lot to do.

"Some of them say that ours are ambitious goals, but we do believe with hard work and with the cooperation and collaboration of the members of the United States Congress that we can get it done," Harris said in response to a question. **PTI**

## Violent attempt at US Capitol to 'overturn' election shocking, incendiary: Independent UN experts

**United Nations:** Describing the attack on the Capitol as a shocking and incendiary attempt to "overturn" results of a free and fair election, a group of independent UN rights experts has expressed hope that the US democracy will emerge stronger from this crisis with renewed commitment to peaceful pluralism and rule of law.

Twenty-three Special Rapporteurs and members of Working Groups have recently signed a statement in which they strongly condemned the US Capitol attack and the incitement to violence and hatred online and offline, calling for accountability.

They said the "violent attempt to overturn the results of a free and fair election at the US Capitol on January 6 was a shocking and incendiary event".

The group affirmed and expressed their "solidarity with the American people who stand for democracy, equality and the rule of law at this critical moment". **PTI**

## Inaugural event to celebrate resiliency of Black Americans

**Detroit (US):** The resiliency, culture and heroism of Black Americans and the African diaspora will be the central theme of a virtual event that will celebrate the nation's diversity on the eve of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris is slated to speak at Tuesday's event, "We Are One," which will also honour the historic nature of her being the first Black and South Asian woman to become US vice president.

Black voters nationwide helped deliver Biden's presidency, overwhelmingly supporting him from the start of his White House bid. Black-led organising work across the nation galvanised voters of colour and contributed to historic turnout in key battleground states.

Tony Allen, CEO of the inaugural committee, said the programming will "honour acts of resilience, heroism, and commitment to unity" from Black, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander communities "as the coalitions that make up our nation come together to celebrate a new chapter in our history." **AP**

## Biden picks transgender woman as assistant health secy

**Washington:** President-elect Joe Biden has tapped Pennsylvania Health Secretary Rachel Levine to be his assistant secretary of health, leaving her poised to become the first openly transgender federal official to be confirmed by the US Senate.

A pediatrician and former Pennsylvania physician general, Levine was appointed to her current post by Democratic Gov Tom Wolf in 2017, making her one of the few transgender people serving in elected or appointed positions nationwide.

She won past confirmation by the Republican-majority Pennsylvania Senate and has emerged as the public face of the state's response to the coronavirus pandemic. **AP**

## Not the right time to lift restrictions on int'l travel: Incoming WH Press Secretary

**Washington:** The incoming Biden Administration on Monday opposed the move of the outgoing President Donald Trump to lift travel restrictions on Europe and Brazil arguing that this is not the right time to do so in the midst of worsening of the coronavirus pandemic.

"With the pandemic worsening, and more contagious variants emerging around the world, this is not the time to be lifting restrictions on international travel," incoming White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki said in a tweet soon after Trump issued an executive order to lift

travel restrictions on European and Brazil.

In an executive order, Trump said he is removing the restrictions applicable to the European Union, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and Brazil, while leaving in place the restrictions applicable to China and Iran.

A decision in this regard, he said, is being taken after the January 12 directive of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requiring proof of a negative COVID-19 test or documentation of

having recovered from COVID-19 for all air passengers arriving from a foreign country to the United States.

However, the incoming Biden Administration indicated that it will enforce a strong travel restriction.

"On the advice of our medical team, the Administration does not intend to lift these restrictions on 1/26. In fact, we plan to strengthen public health measures around international travel in order to further mitigate the spread of COVID-19," Psaki said in another tweet. **PTI**

## Panel: China, WHO should have acted quicker to stop pandemic

**Geneva:** A panel of experts commissioned by the World Health Organisation has criticised China and other countries for not moving to stem the initial outbreak of the coronavirus earlier and questioned whether the UN health agency should have labelled it a pandemic sooner.

In a report issued on Monday, the panel led by former Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark said there were "lost opportunities to apply basic public health measures at

the earliest opportunity" and that Chinese authorities could have applied their efforts "more forcefully" in January shortly after the coronavirus began sickening clusters of people.

"The reality is that only a minority of countries took full advantage of the information available to them to respond to the evidence of an emerging pandemic," the panel said.

The experts also wondered why WHO did not declare a global public health emergency sooner. **AP**

## Earthquake injures three in Argentina; tremor also felt in Chile

**Buenos Aires (Argentina):** A 6.4-magnitude earthquake struck in northwestern Argentina near the border with central Chile, injuring at least three people, authorities said on Tuesday.

Two children and an adult were hospitalised in San Juan province in Argentina after the quake hit just before midnight Monday, provincial Gov. Sergio Uñac said. The shaking caused the collapse of a house, damage to roads and some other buildings in several cities, as well power and water cuts, he said.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the epicenter was 27.6 kilometers (17 miles) southwest of the Argentine town of Porcito and struck at a depth of 14 kilometers (nearly nine miles).

The quake was followed by a magnitude 5.0 aftershock about 15 minutes later and then at least five more strong aftershocks in the next hour ranging from magnitude 5.3 to 4.8, the USGS said. Strong shaking was felt in Chile's capital, Santiago. Chilean officials said there were no immediate reports of damage. **AP**

## Libya's rivals meet in Egyptian resort over constitution

**Cairo:** Libyan officials from rival administrations on Tuesday began talks in an Egyptian Red Sea resort about constitutional arrangements for presidential and parliamentary elections later this year, the United Nations said.

According to the U.N. Acting envoy for Libya, Stephanie Williams, failure to find an arrangement will have "negative repercussions on the other tracks, including the security and economic situation."

She urged the gathering via videocall to wrap up their discussions within a two-month deadline agreed to in November in Tunisia. That agreement also called for presidential and parliamentary elections to be held on December 24, 2021.

Oil-rich Libya sunk into chaos following a NATO-backed uprising that overthrew and later killed dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

The North African country is today divided into two rival administrations, each backed by an array of militias and foreign powers. An administration backed by military commander Khalifa Hifter rules the east and south while a U.N.-supported government based in the capital, Tripoli, controls the west. **AP**

## Kremlin brushes off Western calls to release Navalny

**Moscow:** The Kremlin on Tuesday brushed off calls from US and European officials to release opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who was arrested after returned to Russia from Germany following treatment for nerve agent poisoning, calling the situation with Navalny "an absolutely internal matter."

Statements have come from around the globe condemning the arrest and calling for the immediate release of Navalny, who blames his poisoning on President Vladimir Putin's government.

They add to the existing tensions between Russia and the West, with some EU countries suggesting the imposition of additional sanctions against Moscow.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Tuesday that "we can't and are not going to take these statements into account."

"We are talking about a fact of non-compliance with the Russian law by a citizen of Russia. This is an absolutely internal matter and we will not allow anyone to interfere in it and do not intend to listen to such statements," Peskov told reporters. Navalny was detained at passport control at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport after flying in Sunday evening from Berlin, where he was treated following the poisoning in August. **AP**

## 12 slain, dumped on road in rural dispute in southern Mexico

**Mexico City:**Authorities in Gulf coast state of Veracruz said on Monday that 12 men were killed and their bodies dumped on a roadside in what may have been a dispute between the town ranchers. The killings occurred in the rural town of La Choapas, near the border with the neighbouring state of Tabasco.

Veracruz Gov Cuáhtlém García wrote in a statement that "initial investigations suggest a division between ranchers and helpers from La Choapas and Uxpanapa."

He added that "abuses and threats between them led to this unfortunate outcome." The region is south of the crime-ridden city of Coatzacoalcas, Veracruz. **AP**

## Hindu temple given protection in Pakistan

**Peshawar:** Policemen were deployed on Tuesday to protect a Hindu temple in northwest Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, days after a leader of the minority community demanded protection for the place of worship fearing an attack by some mischievous elements who wanted to occupy its land.

The move comes after officials of the District Evacuee Property Trust Committee and District Revenue in a meeting with Deputy Commissioner, Abbottabad, on Tuesday held that Havelian temple in Abbottabad district is a historic religious structure and needs

protection. On the recommendations of the officials in the meeting, Deputy Commissioner Mughees Sanaullah directed deployment of police personnel at the temple site for its protection.

On Sunday, Hindu community leader Haroon Sarab Dayal said the temple in Havelian city is an old structure and now the land mafia is out to destroy this heritage.

"A handful of mischievous elements wanted to occupy the temple land in Havelian city to spread anarchy in the country," he said. The officials also held that the lease owner of the temple could neither demolish nor

make any alterations in it or use the structure for any commercial purpose.

The officials informed the meeting that as per District Revenue Record, the temple existed at the land which was leased out to one Sardar Ramzan in 2013. Before that, the building was also used by other people for different purposes.

In December, a temple in Terri village in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Karak district was attacked by a mob after members of the Hindu community received permission from local authorities to renovate its decades-old building. **PTI**

## Afghan officials: Taliban attacks, violence kills dozens

**Kabul:** A wave of Taliban attacks and violence has killed dozens across Afghanistan, even as talks are underway between the government and the insurgents in Qatar, officials said on Tuesday. A statement from the defence ministry said four army soldiers were killed late Monday night in Taliban attacks on checkpoints in Kunduz province.

According to the ministry, 15 Taliban fighters were also killed and 12 were wounded. The details were impossible to independently verify as Kunduz is off limits to journalists and the Taliban hold sway across most of the province's rural areas.

However, Ghulam Rabani Rabani, a provincial council member in Kunduz, gave a significantly higher casualty toll.

At least 25 members of the security forces were killed by the Taliban in separate attacks in the Dasht-e-Archi district, including 13 soldiers and four policemen, he said.

At least eight other soldiers were killed near Kunduz city, the provincial capital, he said.

Taliban spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, said the insurgents were behind all the attacks. The Taliban were able to seize weapons and ammunition from the checkpoints, he said.

Meanwhile, in southern Helmand province, Abdul Zahir Haqyar, administration chief in Washer's district, was shot and killed by unknown gunmen on Monday night, said Abdul Nabi Elham, the provincial governor of Helmand. **AP**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given by Mr. Subhendu Saha S/o Mr. Tarapada Saha who is the owner of First Floor, North Side, Side without its Roof Terrace Rights, Built-up property no. R2-43024, area measuring 44 Sq. Yards, out of Khana no. 864325, Situated in Revenue Estate of Village Nasirpur, Delhi State Delhi Colony Known as West Sagarpur, New Delhi-110046 and further will be mortgaging the same against the financial assistance from Aditya Birla Housing Finance Limited, That the Original Sale Deed dated 28/01/2020 executed by Mr. Viman Dev Nath S/o N.K. Dev Nath & Mr. Deepak Talukdar S/o Mr. Pabji Lal Talukdar in favour of Mr. Kaji Dev Sharma S/o of Mr. Ram Dayal Sharma in favour of Mrs. Ruby Sharma W/o Mr. Prem Sharma, registered as Document No. 8571, Book No. 1, Volume No. 10226, on pages 125-134, registered on 28.01.2020 with SR. IX-New Delhi have been lost/stolen. Public is being warned not to deal with the said document. Any person dealing with the said document would do so at their own risk & responsibility. Owner shall not be liable in any manner whatsoever for any loss incurred by such person, if anybody found these document or notice any misuse of the above mentioned document, Concern person is required to communicate in writing to the undersigned at below address.

**1. Urumi Legal LLP**  
269, Rama House, Ground Floor,  
Masjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.II,  
New Delhi-49, Contact #011-40046316

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Mr Suresh Chander Chawla R/o Flat No.162, Defence Apartments, Rohtak Road, New Delhi 110087 has intimated to society office that he purchased the above mentioned flat from Mr Jaswant Rai Setia on 14.12.89. Mr Setia was the registered and original member of society under membership No. 168 and was issued 21 Shares shareshare Certificate No.18. Mr Chawla, the purchaser of this flat, never applied to society for transfer of membership in his favour and share certificate remained in the name of Mr Setia.

Mr Chawla has now reported to society that he was in possession of Original Share Certificate No.18 along with Registered sale agreement/ POA / Conveyance deeds and original Share Certificate No. 18 favouring Mr Setia has been lost from him and is not traceable. Mr Suresh Chander Chawla has requested since he is the rightful and legal owner of this flat by virtue of a legal sale agreement with due consideration, so the membership of this flat be transferred in his favour and submitted an application to issue Duplicate Share Certificate.

Society hereby invites claim / objection from claimants/ objector or objectors for issuance of duplicate Share Certificate within a period of 21 (twenty one) days from the date of publication of this notice, with copies of such document and other proofs in support of their claims/ objections for issuance of duplicate Share Certificate to "The secretary, Defence Cooperative Group Housing Society Ltd (popularly known as Defence Apartments), Rohtak Road, New Delhi-110087".

If No objections/ claims are received within the period prescribed above, the society shall be free to issue duplicate Share Certificate in such manner as is provided under the bylaws of society.

For and on behalf of  
Defence Cooperative Group Housing Society Ltd  
Registered Office: Plot No.3, Rohtak Road, Delhi - 110087.  
Regd No. 375 GH

Date: 19.01.2021 Sd/  
Place: New Delhi Secretary

## Thai court gives record 43-year sentence for insulting king

**Bangkok:** A court in Thailand on on Tuesday sentenced a former civil servant to a record prison term of 43 years and six months for breaching the country's strict law on insulting or defaming the monarchy, lawyers said.

The Bangkok Criminal Court found the woman guilty on 29 counts of violating the country's lese majeste law for posting audio clips to Facebook and YouTube with comments deemed critical of the monarchy, the group Thai Lawyers for Human Rights said. The sentence, which comes amid an ongoing protest movement that has seen unprecedented public criticism of the monarchy, was swiftly condemned by rights groups. **AP**

## 1 dead, 24 migrants rescued on Greek island of Lesbos

**Athens:** The Greek coast guard says it has rescued 24 people and recovered the body of one man from the southern part of the Aegean island of Lesbos, while a search and rescue operation has been launched for potentially missing people.

The 25, believed to be migrants who had arrived from nearby Turkey, were located on an inaccessible part of the island's coast on Tuesday and were transported from the area by a coast guard vessel, the coast guard said.

A helicopter and several coast guard vessels were searching the area following reports from the migrants that there could be a further three people missing. **AP**

<b>ICICI Bank</b>		<b>Branch Office:</b> ICICI Bank Limited, Plot No 23, Shal Tower 3rd Floor New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh Delhi-110005				
<b>PUBLIC NOTICE - TENDER CUM AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET</b>						
[See proviso to rule 8(6)] <b>Notice for sale of immovable assets</b>						
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.						
Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Ltd. will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is", as per the brief particulars given hereunder;						
Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s) /Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	Mohammad Ali Hasan (Borrower), Nargis Parveen (Co-Borrower) LBDEL00002378631	Flat No- 39, LIG 4th Floor, Block B5, Sector- 34, Pocket-1, Rohini, New Delhi 110085 Area- 344 Sq.Ft.	Rs. 14,08,834/- (As on January 5, 2021)	Rs. 9,52,000/- Rs. 95,200/-	February, 10, 2021 From 11:00 AM To 01:00 PM	February 19, 2021 From 12:00 Noon Onwards
The online auction will be conducted on website (URL Link- <a href="https://disposalhub.com">https://disposalhub.com</a> ) of our auction agency <b>M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited</b> . The Mortgagee/noticee are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest till <b>February 18, 2021 before 05:00 P.M</b> else these secured assets will be sold as per above schedule.						
The Prospective Bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at <b>ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi- 110005</b> and there after they need to submit their offer through the above mentioned website only on or before <b>February 18, 2021 before 05:00 P.M</b> along with scan image of Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. Kindly note, incase prospective bidder(s) are unable to submit their offer through the website then signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at <b>ICICI Bank Limited, 3rd Floor Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol bagh, Delhi- 110005</b> on or before <b>February 18, 2021 before 05:00 P.M</b> . Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of "ICICI Bank Limited" payable at Delhi.						
For any further clarifications with regards to inspection, terms and conditions of the auction or submission of tenders, kindly contact <b>ICICI Bank Limited on 8584874809/ 8657476284</b> or <b>M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited on 9710029933/ 9810029926/ 01244233933</b>						
Please note that Marketing agencies 1. <b>NexXen Solution Private Limited</b> 2. <b>Augeo Asset Management Pvt Ltd</b> have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.						
The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please visit <a href="http://www.icicibank.com/n4p4s">www.icicibank.com/n4p4s</a>						
<b>Date: January 20, 2021</b> <b>Place: Delhi/ NCR</b>		<b>Authorized Officer</b> <b>ICICI Bank Limited</b>				

**APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION**

General public is hereby informed that this person **Named:** Unknown, **S/o:** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 45-50 Years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'4", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Wearing:** Red & Gray Sweater, Khakhi Colour Shirt and barefooted has been found dead in front of Prince Hotel Footpath, Fatehuri, Delhi-36 in the area of PS. Lahori Gate, Delhi on 12.01.2021. In this regard a DD No. 32 dated 13.01.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi. The Dead Body has been preserved in Subzi Mandi Mortuary for 72 hours for identification. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following.

**SHO**  
**P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi**  
**DP/887/N/2021(UIDB) Ph.: 011-23953776, 8750870122**

**SEARCH FOR MISSING PERSON**

General public is hereby informed that this person namely Rohit S/o Bharat Bhusan R/o H.No. 212, Near MCD School, Village Harewali, Delhi Age : 18 years **Height :** 5'6", **Face :** Round, **Complexion :** Fair, **Build :** Thin, wearing black colour jacket, black colour lower and sports shoes in feet, has been missing since 26.12.2020 at about 05:00 P.M. from his house. In this regard DD No. 82-A dated 27.12.2020 has been lodged at P.S. Bawana, Delhi.

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

**E-mail:** [cic@cbl.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbl.gov.in) **SHO: P.S. Bawana, Delhi**  
**Website:** <http://cbl.nic.in> **Ph. : 011-27751949,**  
**Fax:** 24368639, **27752534**  
**Tel.:** 24368638/24368641

DP/701/VN21



# TOO BIG TO FAIL — SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank remain D-SIBs: RBI

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The RBI on Tuesday said state-owned SBI, along with private sector lenders ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank continue to be Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs) or institutions which are ‘too big to fail’.

SIBs are subjected to higher levels of supervision so as to prevent disruption in financial services in the event of any failure.

The Reserve Bank had issued the framework for dealing with D-SIBs in July 2014.

The D-SIB framework requires the central to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs starting from 2015 and place these lenders in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores (SISs).

“SBI, ICICI Bank, and HDFC Bank continue to be identified as Domestic Systemically Important Banks (D-SIBs), under the same bucketing structure as in the 2018 list of D-SIBs,” RBI said in a



statement.

The additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) requirement for D-SIBs was phased-in from April 1, 2016 and became fully effective from April 1, 2019. The additional CET1 requirement will be in addition to the capital conservation buffer, the central bank said.

The additional CET1 requirement as a percentage of Risk Weighted Assets (RWAs) in case of the State Bank of India (SBI) is 0.6 per cent, while for the other two banks it is 0.2 per cent.

Based on the bucket in

**The D-SIB framework requires the central to disclose the names of banks designated as D-SIBs starting from 2015 and place these lenders in appropriate buckets depending upon their Systemic Importance Scores**

which a D-SIB is placed, an additional common equity requirement has to be applied to it.

In case a foreign bank having branch presence in India is a Global Systemically Important Bank (G-SIB), it has to maintain additional CET1 capital surcharge in the country as applicable, proportionate to its RWAs.

SIBs are seen as ‘too big to fail (TBTF)’, creating expectation of government support for them in times of financial distress. These banks also enjoy certain advantages in funding markets.

# Sensex soars 834 pts as bulls make a comeback

**HDFC twins, RIL lead charge**

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Reversing two days of heavy losses, the Sensex posted its biggest jump in almost four months on Tuesday as investors returned to buying mode amid expectations of fresh stimulus in the US and other economies.

A recovering rupee and persistent foreign capital inflows further buoyed sentiment, traders said.

The 30-share BSE Sensex soared 834.02 points or 1.72 per cent to close at 49,398.29. It was its biggest single-day gain since September 25, 2020, when it had climbed 835 points. Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rallied 239.85 points or 1.68 per cent to finish at 14,521.15.

Bajaj Finserv was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, jumping 6.77 per cent, followed by Bajaj Finance, HDFC, L&T, ICICI Bank, Sun Pharma and NTPC. HDFC twins, Reliance Industries and ICICI Bank accounted for almost

half of the benchmark's gains.

Only three Sensex components closed in the red — Tech Mahindra, ITC and M&M, shedding up to 0.54 per cent.

Global equities were on an upswing after US President-elect Joe Biden's nominee for treasury secretary, former Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen batted for more measures to fight the recession and avoid an even worse downturn.

In testimony prepared for her confirmation hearing on Tuesday before the Senate Finance Committee, Yellen said more aid is needed to get coronavirus vaccines distributed and help families struggling with job losses stay fed and housed.

“Bulls took control after two days of massive selloff, tracking positive cues from Asian markets and in expectation of a bigger US stimulus to keep the liquidity alive. Buying was seen across sectors with realty and PSU Banks outshining.

“The current market will get further boost by foreign inflow if additional US stimulus kicks in. However, recent

volatility in the market has increased due to concerns over high valuations and bond yields, and investors should be watchful,” said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

All sectoral indices ended with gains. BSE realty, metal, power, capital goods, industrials and finance indices rallied up to 4.04 per cent.

Broader BSE midcap and smallcap indices jumped up to 2.31 per cent.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Hong Kong, Seoul and Tokyo ended with significant gains, while Shanghai was in the red.

Stocks exchanges in Europe were also trading on a positive note in early deals.

## Rupee rises 11 paise to 73.17 against dollar on equity rally

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The rupee gained 11 paise to settle at 73.17 against the US dollar on Tuesday on the back of rally in domestic equities and weak American currency.

A rebound in regional currencies amid growing risk appetite among investors also supported the local currency.

At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened at 73.16, and hit an intra-day high of 73.14 and a low of 73.31. It finally finished at 73.17, higher by 11 paise over its last close.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.22 per cent to 90.52 ahead of the testimony of US Secretary of the Treasury nominee Janet Yellen later in the day.

On the domestic equity market front, the BSE Sensex ended 834.02 points or 1.72 per cent higher at 49,398.29 while the broader NSE Nifty advanced 239.85 points or 1.68 per cent to 14,521.15.

Foreign institutional investors were net buyers in the capital market as they purchased shares worth ₹650.60 crore on a net basis on Monday, according to provisional exchange data.

## INBRIEF

**GOVT HONORS RAVEE SINGH AHLUWALIA**



**Chandigarh:** Ravee Singh Ahluwalia, Chief functionary of Patiala Foundation, has been presented with the Award for outstanding work in Road Safety/Good Samaritan by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH). Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari and Secretary- Road Transport and Highways Dr. VK Singh honoured Ahluwalia on January 18, 2021 at the inauguration of National Road Safety month at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. With great enthusiasm and strong vision in mind, Ahluwalia has been passionately working in the field of social work since the last 12 years. He has also been awarded the prestigious Punjab State Award and District Awards twice in the field of Social Service by Chief Minister Capt. Amarinder Singh.

**BHEL WINS ICAI NATIONAL AWARD**

**New Delhi:** Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has won the coveted ‘ICAI National Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting’ for the financial year 2019-20. The award was received by Subodh Gupta, Director (Finance), BHEL from Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises. Significantly, winning this prestigious recognition is a rare distinction achieved by BHEL after nearly four decades. The last time this recognition was granted to BHEL by ICAI, was in the year 1981-82. Notably, an independent jury unanimously selected BHEL in the ‘Infrastructure and Construction Sector’ category, for the Award for FY 2019-20 after screening at various levels.

**E-AUCTION OF PREMIUM PROPERTIES OF RAJ STARTS Jaipur:** Housing Commissioner Pawan Arora informed that a total of 50 residential/commercial premium properties of Jaipur, Kota, Bikaner and Dausa of Rajasthan Housing Board will be sold through e-auction from January 19 to January 22, 2021. These include e-auction of 32 premium properties in Jaipur, 5 in Kota, 2 in Dausa and 11 in Bikaner. He informed that the process of participating in e-auction of these premium properties has been made very easy. Any person can participate in the e-auction by sitting at home or visiting the e-friend and registering and paying the prescribed security deposit. In order to allow maximum number of people to participate in the e-auction, the security deposit has been changed from 5 per cent to 2 per cent. Along with this, huge discounts have also been provided in the payment terms.

**MARKEM-IMAJE BEGINS WORK AT BHIWADI PLANT** **New Delhi:** Markem-Imaje, a wholly owned subsidiary of the US-based Dover Corporation, announced the commencement of work at its first plant at RIICO Industrial Area, Bhiwadi, Rajasthan. It will also be the head office of the company in the country and the facility is intended to cater to the domestic market. “I am convinced the best days are still to come and see India as a huge growth opportunity for us and our customers,” said Vincent Vanderpoel, CEO of Markem-Imaje .

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



**SUNITA**

General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely:** Sunita, **W/o:** Padam, **R/o:** KH No-57/17, Kishan Colony, Prahladpur Banger, Delhi, **Age:** 40 Years, **Height:** 5', **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Mehroon/Red Saree, Red Blouse and Hawai Chappal in Feet has been missing/kidnapped since 24.12.2020 from the area of P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi. In this regard **FIR/DD No. 33-A, Dated 26.12.2020**, has been lodged at P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi.

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

**Web-site :** <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO**  
**E-Mail Id :** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
**Fax:** 011-23011334 **P.S. Shahbad Dairy, Delhi**  
**DP/71/7/ON/2021** **Ph.: 011-27821047, 27822206 & 7065036322**

**Branch Office:** ICICI Bank Ltd,3rd Floor, Plot No-23, Shal Tower, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, Delhi- 110005

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Builder Cancellation**

This is to bring to your notice that below (borrower/s) has availed Home loan facility vide facility agreement number and address below mentioned The borrower/s has failed to pay the contractual amount to the builder as per the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The Bank had informed the same to the borrower through letter dated **JANUARY 8, 2021** informing that, EARTHCON has cancelled the allotment of the above mentioned property. You are therefore requested to resolve this matter with the builder within 7 days from the date of this publication.

Please take further notice that post cancellation of the allotment of the said property ICICI Bank shall not be bound and/or responsible for any other allotment done by the builder.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/ Loan Account Number	Property Address
1.	Navaid Ur Rehman, Md Naeem, Iflat Gulamabbas Saiyed/ LBGHZ00002539542	Flat No 006, Tower A Earthcon Constructions Plot No 7A Casa Grande SEC CHI-V Greater Noida
2.	Sonika Chauhan, Pankaj Chauhan/ LBFD800002277228	Flat No B103 Tower B 1st Floor, Plot Bearing No GH-07-07A Casa Grande Sector-CHI-V Greater Noida
3.	Faisal Arif, Hina Naz, Mukarram Ali/ LBNOD00002408962	Flat No 901, 9th Floor Tower-A Plot No GH-07A Casa Grande Sector-CHI-V Greater Noida
4.	Faisal Arif, Hina Naz, Mukarram Ali/ LBNOD00002394509	Flat No 1101, Flat No 1101 11th Floor Tower A Casa Grande Plot No Bearing No GH 07A Sector CHI VI Greater Noida Noida
5.	Vinod Kumar, Sonia Teotia/ LBNOD00002270175	B- 605 6th Floor Block B, Casa Grande Plot No 7A Sector CHI-V Greater Noida
6.	Varun Bhardwaj, Kamakshi Bajaj/ LBDEL00002550031	Flat No B 707, 7th Floor Casa Grande Plot Bearing No GH-07-07A Sector-CHI-V Greater Noida
7.	Shriti Anandn, Anand Prajapati/ LBFD800002201330	Flat No A 201, Tower A 2nd Floor Casa Grande Sector CHI V Greater Noida

**Dated:** January 20, 2021 **For ICICI Bank Limited**  
**Place:** Delhi/NCR **Sd-**

# Aluminium industry seeks Govt support; looks forward to supportive measures in Budget

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The aluminium industry has urged the Government to increase the basic custom duty on primary aluminium and aluminium scrap to 10 per cent, eliminate the cess on coal among others as the sector is going through a challenging phase and is under immense threat by rising imports.

In a representation to the government ahead of the Union Budget for 2021-22, the Aluminium Association of India said,

“The Indian aluminium industry seeks immediate government support to tide over this challenging phase and look forward for supportive measures in the forthcoming Union Budget 2021-22.

In this regard, it said the budget suggestions for aluminium industry are ‘increase in basic custom duty on aluminium scrap at par with pri-

mary metal to proposed 10 per cent, as in line with other non-ferrous metals like copper, zinc, lead, nickel, tin etc...Elimination of cess on coal (GST Compensation cess of ₹400/MT) to support highly power intensive industries like aluminium”, among others. The industry has also sought reduction in basic custom duty and correction of inverted duty in structure on critical raw materials for aluminium industry value chain like aluminium fluoroide and coal tar pitch.

“The Indian aluminium industry is going through a challenging phase and is under immense threat by rising imports, declining domestic market share, increasing production and logistics costs,” it said.

These challenges have been further compounded by the Covid-19 pandemic which has adversely impacted the domestic demand for aluminium.

# Amazon partners with Startup India, others to boost e-commerce exports from India

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Amazon on Tuesday said it has partnered with Startup India, Sequoia Capital India and Fireside Ventures to launch an accelerator programme to help early-stage startups take their brands to global audiences.

The Amazon Global Selling Propel (AGSP) programme has been designed to support early stage startups (raised funding in post seed to pre-series A stage, if funded) in the consumer products space to launch in international markets and create global brands from India through Amazon's Global Selling programme.

As part of the Startup Accelerator, Amazon has constituted a mentorship board consisting of Amazon leaders from India and across the world, VCs and senior leaders from Startup India.

The application process will be open for about three weeks, following which 10 startups would be chosen for the accelerator.

The programme will feature a six-week 1:1 mentorship module for the shortlisted participants where they will get to interact with Amazon leaders from India and worldwide and get firsthand knowledge on building and scaling up exports business through e-commerce, Abhijit Kamra, Director - Global Trade at Amazon India, said. Amazon will provide the support for these startups to launch their products worldwide through its exports programme — Amazon Global Selling, he added.

These startups will then get an opportunity to showcase their business proposition to partner VC firms — Sequoia Capital India and Fireside Ventures and three of them will get a chance to win a total equity free grant of \$50,000 from Amazon.

Amazon will also host open virtual mentorship sessions focused on peer learning by inviting veteran entrepreneurs and members from its mentorship board for startups, to network and learn from their existing ecosystem.

“The adoption of technology and digital transformation has paved the way for India to be at the forefront of innovation, giving rise to some of the best startups in the world. There are many promising, emerging brands that have the capability to become big and go global.

“This is a timely initiative by Amazon which can prove to be a big stepping stone for startups to build their business and get access to global markets, Deepak Bagla, MD and CEO of Invest India, said.

Amit Agarwal, Global Senior Vice President and Country Head Amazon India, said Amazon Global Selling is witnessing tremendous momentum with increasing interest from exporters across India.

“With Amazon Global Selling we will continue to make exports simple and accessible to businesses of all sizes and fulfill our commitment of enabling \$10 billion in e-commerce exports from India by 2025,” he added.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Krishna Dhinigra is owner of Entire Ground Floor without terrace rights, measuring 231 sq. yds. (adjoining with Property bearing No. G-10), out of Freehold Property bearing No. G-11, measuring 455 sq. yds., in Block-G, situated at Kirti Nagar, New Delhi. Vide a Relinquishment deed dated 12.09.2018, Registration No. 10674, has lost / misplaced SMC certificate stating legal heirs of late Mr. Harbans Lal Dhinigra. All persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said missing document. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days of the present.

**Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)**  
208, 1Ind Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15  
Ph.: 011-4112527-38 kumarassociates.advocates@gmail.com

**WESTERN RAILWAY**

**POSTPONEMENT NOTICE**

**Tender notice no. BCT/20-21/309 to 311 dt. 08.01.2021 which is to be opened on 02.02.2021 is Postponed and now to be opened on dt.16.02.2021. (Due to technical reason)** 586

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**UJVN Limited**

H.O.: “UJJWAL”, Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006

Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508

CIN No.U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website:www.ujvn.com

**R.O. No.: 64 Tender Notice Date: 19.01.2021**

Office of the EE (M&G), Dhakrani Power Station invites sealed tenders from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

**NIT No. 29/EE(M&G)/DKN/2020-21:-** Overhauling of super structure of By-pass gates at Dhakrani power Station

**NIT No.30/EE(M&G)/DKN/2020-21:-** Replacement of pipeline of pestcock filling valve at Dhakrani power Station .

**NIT No.31/EE(M&G)/DKN/2020-21:-** Overhauling of gantry Cranes of draft tubes and stop log gates at Dhakrani power Station

**Estimated cost:** Rs 1250000.00, Rs 1750000.00 & Rs 775000.00 (GST extra) respectively

**Date of availability of bid document on website:-** 20/01/2021

**Last date of submission of tender:-** 10/02/2021 up to 15:00 Hrs

For further & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website **"www.ujvn.com"**

**Executive Engineer (M&G)**

**“AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY”**

## SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General Public is hereby informed that one male **Namely:** Khazan Chand, **S/o:** Khem Chand, **R/o:** B-94, Street No. 2, Rajeev Nagar, Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since **21.12.2020** at 09:00 am. from the area of P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 44A dated 27.12.2020** has been lodged at P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi. The description of the missing male are as under: **Age:** 33 years, **Height:** 5'4", **Complexion:** Shallow, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Strong, **Wearing:** Black colour T-shirt and blue colour jeans. Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the male but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this male kindly inform to the following.

**Website:** <http://cbi.nic.in> **SHO**  
**E-mail Id :** [cic@cbi.gov.in](mailto:cic@cbi.gov.in)  
**Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641**  
**Fax No. 011-24368639** **P.S. Bhalswa Dairy, Delhi**  
**DP/709/ON/2021** **Ph.: 011- 27811933, 7065036328**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

It is to inform to the public at large that Mrs. Shashi Rajput W/o Mr. Vishal Rajput @ Vishal Rajput who is purchasing the Built-up Third Floor (Back Side) without roof rights, area measuring 45 Sq. Yds., built on Property No.-R2-57/H-7, out of total area measuring 126 Sq. Yds., out of Khazra No.498 & 497, situated at Tughlakabad Extension, New Delhi-110044 from Mr. Shamsad Ahmad S/o Haji Mohammad Akeel owner vide of Notarized General Power of Attorney dated 19.12.2000 executed by Mr. Devender Singh S/o Mr. Rajbir Singh and Mr. Firoz Khan S/o Mr. Mr. Sakl Jaan, along with ATS, Will and same to be finance & mortgage by Vastu Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. If any Person having any type of claim/right/title/interest over the said property, may inform in writing, at the address mentioned below, giving his objections, within 7 days from today, failing which it shall be presumed that the said property is free from all type of Encumbrances, lien etc. **Lucem Legal LLP**  
269, Rama House, Ground Floor, Masjid Moth, Opp. Uday Park, South Ext.III, New Delhi-49, Contact #011-40046316

**Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Ltd**

**74/1, Rajpur Road, Dehradun**

**Tender Notice**

Tenders are invited from parties in the business of event management. The firms in the business for past Seven years may apply for provision of temporary infrastructure facilities and celebrity Management for the event called **“International Yog Festival 2021”** to be held at Ganga Resort, Muni Ki Reti, Rishikesh from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Last date of applying for the E-Tender is 03.02.2021, 15:00 Hrs. The terms and conditions of the tender process as mention in tender document along with information can be downloaded from the website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in). Cost of tender is Rs. 5000.00 and EMD is Rs 3,00,000.00 (Three Lakh Only) The tender can only be uploaded through E-tendering Procedure on the website [www.uktenders.gov.in](http://www.uktenders.gov.in)

**Managing Director**





# NAIL YOUR INTERVIEW

It is necessary to learn a few psychological interview tricks before one attempts to land their dream job, says VIKRAM WADHAWAN

Whether you realise it or not, psychology impacts every aspect of your life. It doesn't matter if you have ever taken a psychology course or if you have preexisting supreme knowledge and information about this topic. What's necessary is that you learn to use a few psychological interview tricks before you attempt to land your dream job. After all, you only get one chance to make a good first impression.

**Make sure time is on your side**  
If the hiring manager offers you some flexibility in choosing an interview time, be sure you choose it wisely. Psychological reasons, says, it's wisest to look for an interview slot between 10 and 10:30 am on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday. As your interviewer will be in a better head space to pay attention to your answers. Also, he/she will be more likely to be in a decent mood, which will make it convenient to build a rapport.

**Avoid excessive smiling**  
There's no need to scowl at your interviewer — but you'll also want to avoid keeping a giant grin across your face. And it's not that you're mean, it's purely psychological. A person that smiles too often is believed to be less serious and also too much smiling can look fake. Moreover, studies have also discovered that excessive smiling

is not a good way to impress your interviewer and for certain professions, smiling too much can undermine your success in a job interview.

**Address your interviewer by name**  
“Remember that a person's name is to that person the sweetest and most important sound in any language,” wrote Dale Carnegie in his book, *How to Win Friends and Influence People*.

The recruiter will instantly warm up to you once you will address them by their name. Subsequently, the interviewer probably has more interest in what you are saying. Moreover, Carnegie suggests using interviewer's name a few times in an interview where appropriate, especially when you're saying goodbye can make a lasting impression.

**Mirror your recruiter's body language**  
Let's face it; your interviewer is going to base a major part of their decision on whether or not they like your personality. Therefore, it's suggested to mimic the recruiter's mannerisms as by reflecting their behaviour, the similarities establish a bond. This approach puts the interviewer at ease, promoting trust and likeability. For example, note the interviewer's communication style (whether formal or casual), and try to adapt the same. If they lean forward, likewise adjust your posture. Furthermore, echoing their voice tone and pitch is another great psy-

chological trick that you can employ in your next job interview

**Confidence is the key**  
Act confident, even if you don't feel confident. This is because recruiters don't only take your professionalism and experience into account, but also your confidence level. When you come off as authentic, passionate, confident, comfortable, and enthusiastic, recruiters are more likely to hire you and it increases your chances of getting selected.

**Colour check is necessary**  
Did you know that colors portray certain traits? Base your color choice on the image you wish to project as the color of your clothes has a big impact on how other people see you. For example, if you're wearing a blue or a brown suit, it means that you're a serious candidate and grey signifies you're logical, focused, and analytical. However, keep the point in consideration to not wear a lot of orange because it's sometimes viewed as unprofessional.

**Don't forget to make eye contact**  
Don't be bashful — when you first meet your interviewer or your interviewer comes to greet you, look them in the eye. Moreover, it's also wise to make eye contact off and on throughout the entire interview.

In a study conducted at Northeastern

University, researchers asked participants to watch videos of strangers talking to each other for the first time and then rate how knowledgeable each person seemed. Results showed that the people who consistently made eye contact while speaking were considered more intelligent than those who didn't make eye contact.

**Demonstrate reflective listening**  
Reflective listening means to repeat back your interviewer's statement or question in your own words, while you are answering. Studies have shown that reflective listening can increase your chances of getting hired, as it does not make you look and sound interested and intelligent, but it also shows you have good listening skills.

**Don't interrupt**  
Interrupting someone elicits negative feelings. Never interrupt your recruiter, even when you think that your thoughts align with him/her and it shows that you're on the same page. Interruption can seem to be rude and also depicts a lack of listening skills.

It would be witty to consider the above-mentioned checks before landing for an interview. No interview is good or bad, successful or failed, but an experience in itself to understand the value of communication.

The writer is Founder & CEO, Vastium

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The philosophic aim of education must be to get each one out of his isolated class and into the one humanity. Prudence and responsibility are not middle-class virtues but human virtues.

— Paul Goodman

**EXPERTSAY**

The Indian IT and IT-enabled Services (IT & ITeS) sector has witnessed a complete turnaround and an unprecedented boost in the wake of COVID-19. Furthermore, the year 2021 promises to be a huge year for the sector fuelled by the growing need and adoption of digital technologies across the board. Given, the current business scenario, we expect a strong push towards policies promoting IT innovation by pushing business-critical and bold policy interventions to propel digital adoption across multiple industries. 'Digital-first' and 'Data-centric', should be the key focus areas for the Government in our view as we push for Digital innovation as an important building block for India's future growth.

— Deepak Mittal, CEO & Co-founder, To The New

The previous year proved to be a gamechanger for the education industry by drastically replacing traditional classrooms with online teaching methods. This along with the introduction of National Education Policy 2020 made a strong foundation for the following year. We expect the 2021 Union Budget to be open to creating an Edtech ecosystem with greater access to the internet and robust data protection. By allowing innovation in the sector and improving the basic digital infrastructure of the country, the Government can ensure that our education system is immune to any pandemic in the future. Our education system needs a perfect combination of digitisation and traditional classroom learning; the budget must elevate startups in the EdTech sector which reciprocate the same beliefs.

— Dr Sunita Gandhi, Founder — Global Classroom Pvt Ltd & Global Education Training institute

The biggest challenge the healthcare sector/industry is facing currently is the shortage of skilled medical workforce. Our country needs more MBBS, MS and MD medical post-graduates and well-equipped hospitals and colleges. The Government should allot funds for medical education in rural areas. The health facilities should be improved in rural areas with qualified doctors and better equipment. The special allowances should also be provided to the doctors and their paramedical staff. The health scheme for children should be launched by the Government that should especially focus on the paramedical courses. New courses should be started in the existing Government colleges. There needs to be a system where we can focus on skilling and upgrading medical workforce skills in the needed geographies. In order to achieve this, major reforms are needed.

— Gaurav Tyagi, Founder — Career Xpert

As the country recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic, it is hoped that the budget 2021-22 kick-starts the economy while boosting expenditure on education and healthcare infrastructure. In this regard, the Government could plan to forego fiscal restraints and increase capital expenditure in these particular sectors. There should be transparency and accountability in every rupee spent on education and ensure equitable distribution of funds. It is expected that the budget should look at boosting private investments and give a fillip to avenues of employment generation. The focus should be on upgrading the basic infrastructure and digitalisation of educational institutions, measures to encourage student retention, and comprehensive teacher training programmes to remain updated with global learning standards.

— Rustom Kerawalla, Chairman, Ampersand Group

The year 2020 will be remembered for many events from economic slowdown to President Trump's defeat and from stock market crash to rumour of Kim Jong (North Korea leader) being dead. But one that leaves the mark in minds and impacted everyone is COVID-19, which has changed the way we work, live, communicate or think. Many technology professionals and enthusiasts lost their jobs during this pandemic and technology start-ups shut shop due to limited cash flows. 2020 college graduates faced difficulty to kick start their career and those graduating in 2021 are confused or stressed.

Not everything is gloomy though as COVID had few positive impacts such as corporates adopting work from home, professionals learning new skills and most important driving digital transformation adoption by 3x times for most of the businesses, governments and consumers across the globe.

A career mantra we recommend and which is applicable for any professional any time and more so for 2021 is 3L — Learn, Leverage and Lead to build “T-shape” profile.

**Learn:** 2020 taught us that we need to learn to adapt lifelong and not get in our comfort zones. Technology professionals should continue to re-skill or up skill themselves in the latest technologies and trends. Cloud architects and developers can learn new cloud platforms, mobile app developers can ensure to know a few competing languages or frameworks (ex: React, Android, Angular or Flutter) and so

## Follow the 3Ls

The career mantra of learn, leverage and lead will help professionals in all sectors to stand out of the clutter, says VINAY SOLANKI



on. While I advise to build a deep expertise in one or two areas, at times it is good to have few breadths in other relevant technologies or functional domains. Someone with T-shape skill profile can always move to adjacent domains or expertise if their existing area becomes irrelevant or too competitive. Example would be embedded software programmer while having strength in C, Python or NodeJS should also build some understanding of hardware architecture, PCB designing, design optimisation and probably soft skills to build

stronger EQ (Emotional Quotient).

**Leverage:** Technology professionals at times ignore power of building wider and stronger network but in situations ahead of us it becomes important to not only have technology skills but people skills and relationship building attitude. Finding the right job or career path can be easier if you learn how to leverage your network. If you know how to give back to your network you will always find someone referring you for an excellent job or position. One can build network within their organisation, online on

LinkedIn, participating in communities, attending focus groups or simply following people. Mentor who can guide you closely can also play a critical role in your career decisions.

**Lead:** Technology professionals with experience of 8+ years usually find it boring or stagnating if they continue to work in the same area or domain for long. Some opt for management programs in order to move up the career chain and others shift domain or skills.

I strongly advise that in addition to building technology skills to focus on functional and soft skills. Take initiatives at your work place by teaching, building focus groups or simply ideating on the project at hand and show you can drive a project, a team or open to take more responsibilities. Future is unpredictable hence it is critical you build leadership skills to differentiate in a hyper competitive environment.

The economic growth moves in cycles so there will be up time and again downward trends hence it's key to use the time you have in 2021 to follow my 3L strategy and strive to have a “T-shape” career or skill profile.

The writer is Head — Digital Solutions at Napino

## KISS of fortune

The KISS is the world's largest residential tribal university, home to thirty thousand indigenous students who are provided nutrition, holistic formal & vocational education from KG to PG absolutely free of cost. It was established in 1992-93 by renowned educationist & social activist Prof Dr Achyuta Samanta. Further it is the embodiment of empowerment of the marginalised, underprivileged group of students who have become change agents for their communities by providing emancipation from acute poverty through education.

Swapna, is a small girl following the trail of light & life from the distant horizon of darkness. She is nature's child, yet teary eyed facing the vicissitudes of life. Her beloved parents who have shown her the light of the day are no longer in this world leaving her alone to live a life without an identity. Yes, she is Swapna Kujur, the daughter of Sunil and Sia Kujur from the remote Bansikar village of Sundergarh district, belonging to the Oraon tribal community. She had lost both of her parents in early childhood & grew up without parental love & affection.

After the death of her parents, all the three siblings along with Swapna came to the streets with the old grandmother accompanying them. Of course the old & helpless lady could hardly support her grand-

daughters. Even two squares of meals were out of reach and they suffered from pangs of hunger & acute poverty. She had to go to the forest to gather fire wood to arrange for food. The struggles increased day by day. Swapna became a road construction worker to survive, when she had not understood even the meaning of life. The siblings did not have a roof on their heads. Even the children had no clothes to cover their naked bodies. Such is the condition of dire poverty. Mother nature could no longer tolerate their plight. A good Samaritan of the village gave them shelter in his house, when they were clutching to the last straw for their survival. Memories of late parents surged in & they cried.

But amongst all these troubles, Swapna nurtured a beautiful dream in her heart. She wanted to study. But it was a day dream for her as the village had no roads or schools nearby. At this juncture, her fate took a turn for the better and a determined Swapna could reach KISS, accompanied by a villager who was trying to get her own daughter admitted to KISS. Before this, Swapna had only heard about the institute. Her long cherished dream had begun to take shape & she was admitted to class-I in 2010.

Her ecstasy knew no bounds as she entered the hallowed portals of KISS, the temple of learning for

many disadvantaged children like her. She enjoyed first full meal & was lost in a peaceful sleep at KISS on a mattress in the hostel building.

Days have passed by. Swapna is now in Class VIII &. She could find her long lost parents amidst the teachers of KISS. Happy productive days are here for Swapna. Gone are the days, when she did not find a single piece of cloth to cover her body & took refuge under the open sky in the jungles. KISS has given a new lease of life to her & she is enjoying every moment of her new found experience. Yet she is unhappy with the continuing poverty stricken life of her siblings.

She feels the comfort of nature's lap in KISS. She is aware, had it not been for KISS, she would not have been anywhere. She is indebted to the father like figure of Prof Samanta, who has protected so many marginalised, poor children like her from the jaws of acute poverty & hunger. It is Prof Samanta who has understood the meaning of hunger in its true sense & has been providing free education, food, shelter & clothing to thousands of poor & little children like her.

Because of KISS, Swapna is growing in the path of progress. She is getting opportunity to develop her culture and craft. Now she is the change agent for her community & is in the path of realising her long cherished dreams.

## Results out for CS programme

The result of Company Secretaries Foundation Programme examination held in 149 centres across the nation including one overseas centre at Dubai on December 26 and December 27, 2020 has been declared on January 18, 2021 at 11:00 am at New Delhi and released to all the Regional and Chapter Offices of the Institute throughout the country for information of all concerned.

In addition to making available the result along with subject wise break-up of marks on the institute's website — [www.icsi.edu](http://www.icsi.edu) the ICSI has extended the facility of downloading of e-Result-

cum-Marks Statement by the candidates. In December, 2020 session, 70.22 per cent of candidates passed the Foundation Programme examination.

Balaji B G from Bengaluru Centre secured All India first rank; Priya Jain from Jabalpur centre and Aparna Mukesh Agrawal from Bhayander centre jointly secured All India second rank; and Nikita Jain from Bhubaneswar centre and Chiraag Agarwal from Kolkata (North) centre jointly secured All India third rank in the examination.

The next examination will be held on June 5 and 6, 2021.

## National Conference of Practising Company Secretaries

The two day National Conference of Practising Company Secretaries culminated in Udaipur on 16 January, 2021 with invaluably intriguing technical sessions.

The first session of the day on Enhancing Quality & Governance encompassed a discussion on an assemblage of Secretarial Standards, Secretarial

Audit, Auditing Standards, UDIN, ECSIN, Peer Review, Code of Conduct and Ethics.

The second session on Embracing Winning Strategies dealt in details with the Art of Advocacy, Opinion writing, Mega Firms, Networking and Multi-Disciplinary Partnerships giving an insight of the dynamism and chal-



lenges of the practice side.

Sharing his experience as a Practising

Company Secretary and as the President of the Institute, CS Ashish Garg, President, The

ICSI, said, “While the Institute has taken the responsibility of promoting a culture of good governance in all spheres in the country; on the other, it is the members i.e. the Company Secretaries and the Governance Professionals who are entrusted with the responsibility of dispensing off their duties with greater enthusiasm and transparency.”

## New appointments

The Institute of Company Secretaries of India has elected CS Nagendra D Rao, as President and CS Devendra V Deshpande, as Vice-President of the year 2021 w.e.f. January 19, 2021.

A fellow member of The ICSI, CS Nagendra D Rao is a Designated Partner and Founder of CS Nagendra D Rao and Associates, LLP, a firm of Practising Company Secretaries in

Bengaluru. He was elected to the Central Council of the ICSI for the term 2019-2022 and served as Vice-President of The ICSI for the year 2020 before being elected as President for 2021. A fellow member of the ICSI, CS Devendra V Deshpande was elected to the Central Council of the ICSI for the term 2019 — 2022. He is a Nominee Director at ICSI IIP.



COVID-19 pandemic affected all of us especially those who embarked on the journey of entrepreneurship. DR MALINI SABA lists traits that will make one equipped to take life challenges head-on



# Be a pioneer in your field

Entrepreneurship means willing to take risks, organise and live your dream in an ever evolving and competitive global market. Entrepreneurs are those who desire to innovate, produce, lead and pioneer in their own field, but 2020 was the year that imparted some valuable lessons to everyone all across the world.

The COVID-19 pandemic hurled innumerable challenges for entrepreneurs especially for those who just embarked on the journey of entrepreneurship. But as the worst is behind us, we know the success mantra of all entrepreneurs in this pandemic was the up-gradation of skills. And entrepreneurship is all about upgrading your skills over time. In 2021, to wade through the tough terrain of life we all should inculcate entrepreneurial skills in students. So here are specific traits of entrepreneurs that will make one equipped to take life challenges head-on.

**Traffic Communication Skills**

One of the most prominent skills for being entrepreneurs is terrific communication skills. That

plays a catalytic role not only in the success of entrepreneurs but also all paves the way for the success of each one of us in almost every walk of life. Pandemic is a golden time for students to learn various skills that helps them to shape their future. A good communicator will emerge victorious in almost all walks of life.

**Upgrading Skills**

Learning is a never ending process for students which helps them to upgrade themselves for creating their better version in their desired field. One success sutra uncovered by this pandemic is that how quickly acclimatise yourself in consonance with any situation determined your success. During the pandemic when a formidable existential crisis was posed by the pandemic the success of entrepreneurs and ventures was determined on the premise of how quickly they pivoted to new businesses.

Thus entrepreneurs reoriented their business model and strategies. Thus willingness to upgrade and acclimatise to any situation befall on you determines your success. Thus this trait

**Entrepreneurship is the profession associated with taking risks. The risk-taking ability will not create rags to riches story only for the entrepreneurs but can be a gamechanger in our personal lives**

should be inculcated by us in 2021. These entrepreneurial skills will let students stride on path of success.

**Crisis Management Skills**

It's not easy to tackle any crisis but your role to manage the situation is define your skills or mind-set towards it. For students the most important skill set that leads to the sparkling success of any entrepreneur is his acumen for crisis management. Standing firm in the face of crisis, wading through the crisis and emerging victorious are few traits associated with entrepreneurs. But this skill holds immense value in our lives when we should be ready to grapple with any untoward incident and emerge victoriously. So, it would be apt to say we all should strive to inculcate this entrepreneurial trait in 2021 when 2020 shows us that we have to hold strong in the face of crisis and any extenuating circumstances.

**Optimal Use of resources**

Resources are mostly limited in nature whether its natural or man-made, so students need to always keep in mind to use resources potentiality. Another

important entrepreneurial skill that leads to success is their ability to optimally use all the resources. And that is the quality that if transpired into our personal lives will also make our personal and professional lives hassle-free and smooth. This trait can not only give entrepreneurs marvelous success but can also bring huge success for you.

**Ability to Take Risks**

Entrepreneurship is the profession associated with taking risks and making the maximum out of any opportunity. But this risk-taking ability will not create rags to riches story only for the entrepreneurs rather this can be a game changer for all of us even in our personal lives. The 2021 will be all about risk-taking abilities and entrepreneurial skill will come to rescue in your personal life too.

Thus 2020 brought lessons for us that it's not only for students or entrepreneurs to enhance their skills but it's equally important to learn entrepreneurial skills to sail through all the extenuating circumstances of life.

The writer is founder-chairman, Saba Group and Anankee Foundation

## ‘Let’s build self-reliant & digital India’

The biggest priority for start-ups in 2021 will be to build business models that are efficient, agile and sustainable, says RAHUL GARG

The 2021 marks the beginning of not only a new decade but also a new normal. This new normal will pose new challenges to old processes and old ways that old businesses have thus far followed. The growing strength of start-ups and new ventures will become the foundation of a new self-reliant and digital India. Start-ups with new processes and new technologies are defining the new normal.

The biggest priority for start-ups in 2021 will be to build business models that are efficient, agile, and sustainable. It will be critical for start-ups to start searching for the right combination of processes, technology, and people in 2021 to provide new and better ways around such challenges. To achieve this, they will need to be modular. Start-ups will have to integrate people, processes, and technology into a single model that allows each of these elements to be repeatedly dismantled, designed, and deployed to adapt to disruptions.

Businesses have been using processes that were deemed right until some time ago. These processes have low technology penetration, offline collaboration platforms, and disjoint workflows that necessitate people's onsite presence and increase exposure to health risks. The pandemic has created new benchmarks. Old businesses now need to test and validate their existing processes against first principles. They need to introspect on how an economy of 1.3 billion people can continue to produce goods and services, have access to stable income streams, and get recognised for creating value in the face of adversity. Innovation focused start-ups can enable legacy businesses to explore new processes.

Start-ups will first come about using new processes that provide new ways where none previously existed and better alternatives than the existing ones. They will enter the fray as product and process innovation providers that create balance sheet impact for old businesses. Those that will be agile will be the first to roll out new products and processes in the market will earn the tag of belonging to a select group of businesses that truly innovate. A lot of this innovation will involve digitalisation and technology integration in diverse capacities, as is evidenced by the shift



Rahul Garg  
Founder-CEO, Moglix

from offline to online processes through the pandemic.

The new decade will bring disruptions characterised by high volume, velocity, and variety of change. Fiscal policy interventions from governments, advisories from consulting companies, and businesses' initiatives will have to be a step ahead of such unseen changes and build deterrence capabilities well in advance. Institutions will have to move towards a new normal of collecting, analysing, and interpreting data for decision making, getting higher predictability about the future, and staying ahead of the curve. Startups born from technology innovations in emerging technologies like big data, artificial intelligence, machine learning, and cloud computing will enable businesses, Governments, and social enterprises to achieve unprecedented levels of proactive institutional behavior.

New techniques that demonstrate tangible value for customers, and protect the lives and livelihoods of people, will sustain, attract talent, and get support from investors and Government to grow into new businesses of tomorrow. 2021 will, in a way, set the pre-conditions for start-ups to take off towards building a self-reliant and digital India.

The changes in India's education sector, some forced — some welcome, in this year will continue to impact the sector for many years to come. First and foremost, the pandemic forced the schools and colleges to shift to online learning almost overnight. Online learning introduced many new paradigms in education like virtual classrooms, learning anytime, personalised learning at one's own pace and speed, remote examinations and admissions and many others.

The education sector continues to reel under the impact of the pandemic induced changes and some roll-over effect in terms of delayed exams and sessions etc. will likely be experienced for the next few years.

The second significant change that will have far-reaching effects on Indian education is the announcement of the New Education Policy 2020 (NEP) after a gap of almost 34 years. The NEP is a futuristic policy document which envisions more paradigm shifts in education as we know it. There is a strong emphasis on digitizing higher education and open learning systems to boost the GER.

The NEP 2020 aims to increase public investment in education from 4.4% of India's GDP to 6% and improve education for nearly 300 million students. Towards this, the policy sets out comprehensive reforms that will affect every student, from the play schoolers to ambitious master's

## MINDIT

degree pursuers considering a PhD. The activities could go from ability improvement and inventive financing to empowering research yield.

Another critical reform will be the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) setting, which will work as a single body for all higher education, barring medical and legal education. It will replace all other remaining regulatory bodies like the UGC or the AICTE. Creating a National Educational Technology Forum, an autonomous body, will also encourage the

use of technology in college education.

Hence, much can be expected from the sector, and the sector itself has much to look forward to from 2021 onwards. Together, in the backdrop of these significant impact events, Indian education can look to the following soon:

**Learn anytime learning and at any place:** It will be easier for the students to learn and upgrade their skills. Students will be able to learn new courses from international universities. The modern learners will be able to consume, evaluate,

and integrate continually changing data.

**Flexible paths and more choice of subjects:** Students will have various courses and subjects to choose from. The HECI is expected to set up a solitary all-encompassing umbrella body for all advanced education streams, barring clinical and legal training. Vocational or skill-based learning will also be included. The new system is expected to provide flexibility.

**Project-based and experiential learning:** Accurate assessment is the process of uncovering, understanding and figuring out what a learner does and does not understand, and moving forward from there. Project-based and experiential learnings may well become the norm then.

**Mobile learning and self-directed learning could form the core of formal education models:** Regardless of whether through versatile learning applications or 1:1 mixed learning or customised learning calculations, or self-coordinated learning, the fate of learning is without a doubt portable, individual, and self-coordinated.

Many believe that if the new policy is implemented sincerely with a careful designing of syllabi and curricula, it can transform India into a self-reliant knowledge superpower. The 2021 educationists should hook on to thinking about students as individuals and inspire students to learn.

The writer is Ashwani Awasthi, Managing Director- RICS School of Built Environment



**Application deadline:** The last date to apply is June 2021.

**The Monash University, Melbourne, Australia invites applications for up to 25 Engineering International Undergraduate Excellence studentships** to students willing to enlist in a bachelor engineering programme.

**Eligibility:** You can apply for this high achiever prize if you are an international student who is currently in year 12 (or equivalent), or completed year 12 (or equivalent) in the previous year and have not undertaken any other tertiary study. The candidates must have a full offer or a conditional offer on meeting English requirements.

**Supporting documents:** Applicants must prepare to submit a transcript, a statement, a copy of educational certificates and other required at the time of application. Check all required documents needed. Email your documents as a single PDF to [sebs.csu.documents@monash.edu](mailto:sebs.csu.documents@monash.edu).

**Admission requirements:** Applicants must have achieved a minimum equivalent ATAR score of 95.00 to take enrolment in an engineering course at Monash.

**Language requirement:** Before you apply to Monash, you must meet the minimum English language requirements.

**How to apply:** Applications are not necessary, when you submit a course application at the Monash University you will automatically eligible for the grant program.

**Application deadline:** Apply now.

**The University of Sheffield, UK invites applications for its Computer Science Excellence Scholarship.** The scholarships will be awarded in recognition of academic excellence to overseas students starting an undergraduate degree September 2021 in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Sheffield.

**Award:** Up to £2000  
**Eligibility:** Attain A level grades of A\*A\*A (or above), or equivalent, including an A\* in Mathematics.

Make the University of Sheffield your first (firm) choice in the UCAS application process for 2021 entry.

Apply to study a full-time undergraduate programme in the Department of Computer Science. Be classed as an international student for tuition fee purposes.

Be taking all prerequisite subjects for your selected degree. The university will offer the scholarship in the form of a cash bursary at the start of your course should you be eligible.

**How to apply:** The scholarship amount is depended on your academic achievement please email the Undergraduate Admissions Team: [ug-compisci@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:ug-compisci@sheffield.ac.uk).

For full details and terms please visit <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/engineering/study/scholarships-international-excellence>

### CONTENT WRITING AT COGNITIO EDVENTURES

Location: Work From Home  
Stipend: ₹25,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6833388](http://internshala.com/i/6833388)  
Deadline: January 27, 2021

### MARKETING AT NAIR INNOVATIONS

Location: Delhi  
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Link: [internshala.com/i/6833396](http://internshala.com/i/6833396)  
Deadline: January 28, 2021

### BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AT BUILD WITH INNOVATION

Location: Delhi  
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹15,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6833401](http://internshala.com/i/6833401)  
Deadline: January 27, 2021

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Location: Ranchi  
Stipend: ₹12,000 per month  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6833435](http://internshala.com/i/6833435)  
Deadline: January 23, 2021

### OPERATIONS AT AFFINITY WEB MEDIA

Location: Bhubaneswar  
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹12,000 per month  
Link - [internshala.com/i/6833440](http://internshala.com/i/6833440)  
Deadline - 27th January 2021

### FRESHER JOBS CREATIVES DEV MANAGER AT DEEPTHUGHT EDUTECH VENTURES

Location: Remote  
Stipend: ₹3-5 lakh per annum  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6833448](http://internshala.com/i/6833448)  
Deadline: February 7, 2021  
Skill(s): Creative Writing, Copywriting

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE AT GLOBAL SUN

Location: Remote  
Stipend: ₹3.5-₹4.3 lakh per annum  
Link: [internshala.com/i/6833452](http://internshala.com/i/6833452)  
Deadline: January 27, 2021  
Skill(s): English (Spoken & Written)

## STUDY ABROAD

### ‘Many benefits of studying MBBS abroad’

Fee hike, bond sign and increase in NEET cut-off has made students apply to foreign colleges, says VP BENIWAL

Many students have opted for MBBS abroad. Many medical colleges in India have

increased their fee this year. Also some State medical colleges and institutes have levied the filling of bonds.

Haryana has increased its fee from ₹4 lakh to ₹10 lakh per year with the conditions to sign a bond. The students can pay this amount by taking the loans and the Government would repay the instalments of the loan. According to the bond, a student on completing MBBS will have to serve at the public health centres in rural areas. If the persons quits to work under the said conditions, the bond repayments shall not be borne by the Government.

Fee hike in Southern States like Kerala has also

been reported this year. Where the fee was around ₹5-₹6 lakh till last year for private medical colleges, this year it has hiked to ₹12-₹13 lakh per year. Such high fee is creating financial burden on parents.

Also, the NEET cut off for Government medical colleges has hiked. Hence the students scoring close to 600 have also not got the medical colleges of their choice in India. Such students were left with options to choose either a private medical college if they could afford or opt for MBBS abroad where the latter seems to be a wise decision. Where such students could not secure their medical seat in India, these students are offered scholarships with premium Government universities abroad.

With these changes students tend to get attracted towards MBBS abroad. Some have even cracked the opportunity this year while other are hopeful to apply after NEET 2021.

The writer is Director, Jagvimal Consultants

## IN BRIEF

### THE LITTLE SINGHAM HITS A MILLION DOWNLOADS

The Little Singham: Kids Early Learning App launched last year by Creative Galileo has hit a million downloads in just six months with an average rating of 4.70. Creative Galileo is an e-learning app that weaves together the best of education and entertainment to create personalised, integrated learning experiences for young minds.

This educational app is a paradigm shift from traditional teaching practices and targets children from three to eight years to teach them about colours, numbers, shapes, phonics, etc. Delivered via extremely engaging storylines of Little

Singham and his friends, Babil, Lattu, Hawaldar Karate, and many others, this app helps to inculcate friendship, kindness, helpfulness, and morality in kids.

Talking about the app, founder Prerna Jhunjhunwala, said: "Traditionally, education and fun were supposed to be two things that are the complete opposite of each other, but we believe that when the children are having fun, then they are more interested in learning. Our carefully curated content brings together the best of education and entertainment. This is a holistic kid's app that meets the end to end needs of parents and children."

### COVISHIELD VACCINE DRIVE AT SIMS HOSPITALS

The SIMS Hospitals (SRM Institutes for Medical Science), Vadapalani, one of the leading multi specialty hospitals in Chennai, joins India's biggest vaccination drive against COVID 19 with Covishield vaccine, beginning today.

Inaugurated by Dr J Radhakrishnan, Principal Secretary, Health & Family

Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, the Covishield vaccine will be provided free of cost to about 1500 healthcare workers as well as frontline workers of SIMS Hospital, in this phase-I of vaccination drive. Using their Government identity cards, health workers can register to avail the free vaccine.

Speaking on the

occasion, Dr Radhakrishnan said: "Building trust and confidence to motivate people to get vaccinated against COVID 19 is very important. I got the immunisation vaccine administered to emphasise the vaccine's safety and efficacy. I am elated that those who have already got vaccinated are responding well to the vaccination too."

### 13TH ED LEADERSHIP ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

We are in the middle of the most challenging years for Indian education sector. The Ed Leadership Roundtable Conference acts as a medium to initiate critical conversations, those that define the future of education.

The 13th edition of Ed Leadership Conference, organised by GETI, is going to be held from January 21 — January 24, 2021. The chief guests of the event are Anurag Tripathi, senior bureaucrat of 1998 batch officer of IRPS and Secretary of Central Board of Secondary Education

since May 2017 and Dr. Dinesh Sharma, the Deputy Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

The first ever Ed Leadership International Roundtable happened in the year 2008 and ever since, 12 more have taken place where attendees are given a participation certificate, followed by Innovation-in-Process Fellowships and International Education Innovator Awards.

The virtual conference is free for all the attendees and can be booked online (<https://www.edleader.in/register.aspx>).



# WONDER DOWN INDIA

India does winning talk, pull off historic Test series win Down Under

PTI ■ BRISBANE

They say heroes are ordinary people doing extraordinary stuff. If one wanted to see a Live demonstration of it, Gabba was the place to be where Australia's cricketing pride and invincibility was torn to shreds by a bunch of Indian rookies who didn't seem to care for either history or reputations.

A target of 328 lay in front of them and with all the broken bones and bruised bodies in the dressing room, it would have been perfectly understandable to chase a draw to retain that coveted Border-Gavaskar trophy.

But they wanted more and that's precisely what they walked away with.

So what if their regular captain was on paternity leave? So what if their pace spearhead and premier all-rounder were out injured? So what if the crowd in Sydney had caused some mental scars with their racist chants?

So what? Asked a lot which had seen adversity of a more intense kind in their personal lives. They knew all about it and on the field, they showed how to stand up to it.

On Tuesday, a minefield of talent called Rishabh Pant (89 not out off 138 balls) channelled his inner *Mad Max* to scare the daylight out of the Australians with his breathtaking strokeplay. He couldn't care less for the history that the home team had not lost at 'Fortress Gabba' in the past 32 years.

He was out to change it. Coach Ravi Shastri knew how momentous it was. He would know, he was part of the ride and he made no bones about it.

"It is the toughest tour ever. Nothing surpasses this. After 36 all out, this is unreal," Shastri said, admitting that at the end of it all, he had tears in his eyes.

If Shastri's intense declaration reflected his flamboyance, stand-in captain Ajinkya Rahane's reticence shone through



in his response.

"I looked good because everyone contributed," he said.

The highlights package of Pant's battle with Nathan Lyon can be enjoyed repeatedly in times to come as he demolished the 100-Test man in company of debutant Washington Sundar (22), who hooked the world's best fast bowler, Pat Cummins, for a six.

No one moved from their seats as Pant cut, drove, and paddle-swept to make a statement to his detractors while gifting India one of their finest overseas wins during the dying moments of the final session with an off-driven boundary.

While Shubman Gill (91 off 146 balls) announced his arrival on the global stage, Cheteshwar Pujara (56 off 211 balls) surpassed all the pain barriers en route his slowest Test fifty that held the game in balance for Pant to launch a final assault.

The Australian team wouldn't feel too good about not being able to win a Test match with an opposition that was finding it difficult to field a fit first XI a day prior to the Test match.

Add to it, the visitors were also left quite hurt by the racial slurs directed at the likes of Mohammed Siraj and Jasprit Bumrah by

the crowd during the Sydney Test.

The series will be remembered for ages and the impact that Ajinkya Rahane's team had on the cricketing fraternity and the fans in general will be written in golden words when a fresh history of Test cricket after 2000 is written.

In terms of relevance, a series win without Virat Kohli, Mohammed Shami, Ravindra Jadeja, Ravichandran Ashwin and Jasprit Bumrah not being available at various points, is zillion times more significant than the 2-1 win in 2018-19 when the opposition didn't have Steve Smith and David Warner in its ranks.

First time, people celebrated draws, became empathetic to players with limited abilities and believed in their team.

The stands were near-about empty at the Gabba thanks to the Covid-19 crowd restrictions but make no mistake that Test cricket seemed well and truly alive and kicking.

With its beautiful ebbs and flows, the fifth day was witness to three separate schools of batsmanship, so very dissimilar to each other.

Gill, who is now going to be the "Real Deal", was free-flowing in his stroke-making with his "beside the line of the ball" tech-

nique as he rode the bounce to hammer home the advantage and briefly make India favourites to win the battle.

The two sixes off Mitchell Starc — a slash over backward point and a thump over deep mid-wicket — will be the ones for the keeps.

The disdain while thrashing the Australian bowlers would have made even Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli proud.

India have now got Kohli's heir apparent and the 21-year-old is here to stay for the longest time.

Pujara, on the other hand, saw the Australian try out the menacing short ball tactic. He took a few on the helmet, a few more on the chest and other parts and a painful one on the knuckles but remained unfazed.

Gill and Pujara showed that there are multiple ways to skin a cat.

If Pujara was ready to duck, sway and cop body blows off Josh Hazlewood and Cummins, showing the art of survival, Gill, on his first tour of Australia, was ready to be the intimidator by bringing the pull shot out of his repertoire.

The duo, during its 114-run stand, showed that very contrasting styles can co-exist without conflict even as fans of both

genres argue who has the more appropriate approach for the format.

Even Pant with his cavalier ways would have added his two cents to the debate on various styles.

But for the uninitiated, the three distinct schools can be suitably de-constructed — Pujara's was more of investing in an LIC policy with safe returns while Gill's approach, with his collars-up, was akin to mutual funds and Pant would most likely play his game in high-stakes stock market where winner takes it all but at times at a heavy price.

While the final day performance is sure to hold a special place but the story of this match won't be complete without a more than honourable mention of what Shardul Thakur and Washington Sundar did on the third morning and afternoon.

Had that partnership not been there, it wouldn't have been as easy for India as it seemed in the end. Thakur and Washington gave hope of a fight, Pujara, Gill and Pant, with their performances, honoured that fight.

Coach Ravi Shastri was once panned for his "best travelling Indian team" comment but after January 19, very few would disagree that this is the "toughest Indian team on road".

We are all overjoyed at the success of the Indian Cricket Team in Australia. Their remarkable energy and passion was visible throughout. So was their stellar intent, remarkable grit and determination. Congratulations to the team! Best wishes for your future endeavours.  
—PM NARENDRA MODI

A historic cricketing triumph scripted in Australia! Congratulations to India's talented young cricket team for winning the hard-fought test series. The team showed exceptional skills and resilience. The nation is proud of their achievement.  
—PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND

EVERY SESSION WE DISCOVERED A NEW HERO. Every time we got hit, we stayed put & stood taller. We pushed boundaries of belief to play fearless but not careless cricket. Injuries & uncertainties were countered with poise & confidence. One of the greatest series wins! Congrats India.  
—SACHIN TENDULKAR

WHAT A WIN!!! Yesssssss. To everyone who doubted us after Adelaide, stand up and take notice. Exemplary performance but the grit and determination was the standout for us the whole way. Well done to all the boys and the management. Enjoy this historic feat lads. Cheers @BCCI  
—VIRAT KOHLI

*Khushi ke maare pagal.* This is the new India. *Ghar mein ghuskar maarta hai.* From what happened in Adelaide to this, these young guys have given us a joy of a lifetime. There have been World Cup wins but this is special. And yes, there is a reason Pant is extra special.  
—VIRENDER SEHWAG

Well done captain @ajinkyarahane88 this this biggest series win I feel... Without many big names you guys have showed the way how it's done congratulations @BCCI  
—HARBHAJAN SINGH

Test cricket's heart is beating strongly! That was an extraordinary win @BCCI & a fantastic series to watch. Aussies not lost at The Gabba since 1988. Wow  
—STUART BROAD

What a Test match! The depth of Indian Cricket is scary. @RishabhPant17, sweet number 17. Well played young man. #testcricket at its very best  
—AB DE VILLIERS

Only issue with India beating Australia in such an INCREDIBLE manner, is that the Test was played in Brisbane. A city that doesn't deserve an event so good! Rolling on the floor laughing. Pant — the boy who turned into a man today in Australia, in cricketing terms!  
—KEVIN PIERSON

The Greatest Test series win of all time ... Well done #India you have just shown the way for England to get back those Ashes back later in the year ...  
—MICHAEL VAUGHAN

Remarkable. Injuries galore, absent players, & beating Australia at their fortress at the Gabba. This has been the most remarkable test series victory I've watched in my experience. India's depth of talent, heart and character must forever lift an entire nation. Congratulations.  
—IAN BISHOP

Congrats to the Indian cricket team @BCCI That's one of the best series wins I can ever remember on Aust soil & to do it after being bowled out for 36, plus a depleted squad-shows tremendous character, resilience, courage & belief. Just fantastic @RaviShastri0fc @ajinkyarahane88.  
—SHANE WARNE

# Biggest moment 'Never ever underestimate India' of my life: Pant



PTI ■ BRISBANE

After playing a key role in India's breathtaking and successful run chase in the series-deciding fourth Test against Australia, Rishabh Pant on Tuesday called the historic win as the "biggest moment" of his life.

"This is one of the biggest moments of my life now, and I'm happy that all the support staff and all my teammates

supported me even when I wasn't playing," Pant said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

India did not play Pant in either the preceding ODI or the T20 series. But the young wicketkeeper-batsman made an impression in the Test series, playing a combative 97-run knock in the second innings in Sydney and again here on Tuesday.

"It's been a dream series. The team management always

backs me and tells me, you are a match-winner and you have to go win the match for the team. I keep thinking every day that I want to win matches for India, and I did it today," Pant said.

India skipper Ajinkya Rahane initially struggled to find words but gathered himself to praise his courageous teammates.

"It means a lot to us. I don't know how to describe this, but our boys showed a lot of character and determination after the Adelaide Test," Rahane, who led India in the absence of Virat Kohli, said. "I'm really proud of each individual."

Australia captain Tim Paine graciously admitted that they were outplayed by the Indians.

"We were here to win the series, but we have just been outplayed by a disciplined and tough Indian side who fully deserve the series win. We have to look back over a lot of things, and we'll go through it as a group.

"We have been outplayed by a better side this series," he said.

supported me even when I wasn't playing," Pant said at the post-match presentation ceremony.

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"It's been a dream series. The team management always

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Outplayed by an inexperienced and injury-plagued India, a shocked Australia head coach Justin Langer on Tuesday said one massive lesson that he has learnt from the setback is to "never ever, ever underestimate" the "really tough" players from that country.

A visibly shaken Langer lauded India for the lion-hearted effort to win the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2-1 despite playing with a second-string side, especially after being decimated inside three days in the series-opener in Adelaide. That loss included India's lowest-ever Test score of 36 in the second innings.

"It was an incredible Test series and in the end there is always a winner or a loser. Today Test cricket is the winner. It's gonna hurt us big time.

GOVT. OF ODISHA  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,  
O/O THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,  
RENGALI RIGHT CANAL DIVISION NO.II, DHENKANAL.  
Email Id - eerc2dki@gmail.com

A-486

'e' Procurement Notice

The Executive Engineer, Rengali Right Canal Division No.II, Mahisapat, Dhenkanal on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites on line percentage rate bids for construction of the work as detailed below:

1.	Name of the work	:	02 (two) nos of works
2.	Tender Cost	:	₹ 11.83 lakh to ₹ 9.79 lakh
3.	Bid Document Cost	:	As per DTCN
4.	Bid Security	:	₹11,900.00 to ₹ 9,800.00
5.	Class of Contractor	:	D, C & Electrical
6.	Period of Completion	:	06 & 03 months
7.	Other details are as follows	:	

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-line for bidding	Date of Opening of Technical Bid
Executive Engineer, Rengali Right Canal Division No.II, Dhenkanal	EERRCIBDKL-01/2020-21	From 20.01.2021 10.00 AM To 03.02.2021 5.00 PM	04.02.2021 11.00 AM

8. For further details and on line bidding, visit Govt. website [www.tendersodisha.gov.in](http://www.tendersodisha.gov.in)

Executive Engineer  
Rengali Right Canal Division No.II,  
Dhenkanal

OIPR-32084/11/0002/2021

NATIONAL HEALTH THIRU  
E-528

CHIEF DISTRICT MEDICAL & PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER : KEONJHAR  
(ZILLA SWASTHYA SAMITI (ZSS),KEONJHAR)

Advt. Letter No ... 239 ..... Date 18.01.2021

Request for Proposal (RFP) for. Operation and Maintenance of ALS and BLS Ambulances for Inter Facility Transfer in the Government Health Facilities for Keonjhar District

Sealed proposals as per the prescribed RFP document are invited from interested eligible bidders for the " Operation and Maintenance of ALS and BLS Ambulances for Inter Facility Transfer in the Government Health Facilities for Keonjhar District". The eligibility criteria and detailed requirements for said RFP and the formats for submission of proposals are set forth in the RFP document which can be downloaded from the district NIC website i.e. [www.keonjhar.nic.in](http://www.keonjhar.nic.in). Interested bidders fulfilling the eligibility criteria may submit their proposal(s) with EMD, tender paper cost & documents as set forth in this RFP and submit to the undersigned in sealed envelope (s) clearly super scribing " RFP for Operational & Maintenance of ALS & BLS Ambulance for Keonjhar district". The detailed address for submission of proposal at the Keonjhar is mentioned in the RFP document.

Proposal(s) complete in all respect should reach the Office of the CDM & PHO Keonjhar-758001 by Speed Post / Regd.Post / Courier only on or before dt. 08.02.2021. till 5.00 PM. The proposal(s) shall be opened on dt. 09.02.2021 at 11.00 AM in DTU,NHM,Keonjhar. Incomplete applications received in an open envelop/applications received after the due date will be summarily rejected.

The authority reserves the right cancel or reject the any or all Tender without assigning any reason thereof. No personal query shall be entertained. The decision of the committee will be treated as final.

OIPR-10033/11/0038/2021

Sd/-Chief District Medical & Public Health Officer, Keonjhar

B-651

WORKS DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ROURKELA (R&B) DIVISION,  
UDITNAGAR, ROURKELA

E-Mail Id - eepwdrkl@gmail.com

Government of Orissa "e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No.: 46/ 2020-2021 Dated:08.01.2021

1.	Number of works: 6 (Six) number of Works
2.	Estimated cost: Rs.58.03 Lakhs to 75.63 Lakhs
3.	Period of completion: 3(Three) calendar months
4.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: Dt 23.01.2021 at 11.00 A.M.
5.	Last date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal: Dt 05.02.2021 up to 05.00 P.M.
6.	Date of opening of Bid: Dt.10.02.2021 at 11.00A.M.
7.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid: Executive Engineer, (R & B) Division, Rourkela, UditNagar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersorissa.gov.in"

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R & B Division , Rourkela

OIPR-34068/11/0024/2021

B-649

WORKS DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, ROURKELA (R&B) DIVISION,  
UDITNAGAR, ROURKELA

E-Mail Id - eepwdrkl@gmail.com

Government of Orissa "e" Procurement Notice

Bid Identification No.: 40/ 2020-2021 Dated:29.12.2020

1.	Number of works: 4 (Four) number of Works
2.	Estimated cost: Rs.56.02 Lakhs to 86.95 Lakhs
3.	Period of completion: 3(Three) to 4(Four) calendar months
4.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal: Dt 15.01.2021 at 11.00 A.M.
5.	Last date/ Time for receipt of bids in the portal: Dt27.01.2021 up to 05.00 P.M.
6.	Date of opening of Bid: Dt.01.02.2021 at 11.00A.M.
7.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid: Executive Engineer, (R & B) Division, Rourkela, UditNagar.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal http://tendersorissa.gov.in"

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
R & B Division , Rourkela

OIPR-34068/11/0022/2021