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INNOVATIVE DIGITAL
THINKING IS KEY

NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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OF 4TH TEST
AGAINST AUS
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SC stays 3 farm laws for fruitful parleys

Court forms four-member committee to listen to grievances of farmers and make recommendations to resolve stand-off

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The agitating farmers scored a major victory on Tuesday when the Supreme Court stayed the implementation of the three farm laws till further orders despite vehement opposition by the Centre. The court formed a four-member committee to listen to the grievances of the farmers and make recommendations to resolve the stand-off.

The apex court said the talks between the Government and the farmers' bodies have not yielded any solution so far and its order may encourage the protesting farmers to come to the negotiating table in good faith. "The stay may assuage the hurt feelings of farmers and encourage them to come to the negotiating table with confidence," a Bench headed by Chief Justice SA Bobde said.

However, the farmer unions had already rejected any negotiation with any court-appointed committee and did not even send their advocates to take part in Tuesday's proceedings.

The SC said a few farmers' unions, which are now protesting, have engaged a team of lawyers comprising senior advocates Dushyant Dave, Colin Gonsalves, HS Phoolka and lawyer Prashant Bhushan to represent their cause.

It said when Attorney General KK Venugopal had submitted earlier that there are reports that the unions may take out a tractor rally on January 26 disrupting the Republic Day Parade and celebrations, "the same was stoutly denied" by Dave on the ground that at least one member of family of each of the farmers from Punjab is in Army and they would not disrupt the celebrations.



Farmers during the ongoing agitation against new farm laws at Singhu Border in New Delhi on Tuesday

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"However, today this team of lawyers is absent," the Bench noted, adding some unions, who are opposing these laws, have agreed to go before the committee.

Rejecting the Government contention that it cannot stay any law passed by Parliament, the judges said the apex court cannot be said to be "completely powerless" to grant a stay of any executive action under a statutory enactment.

Noting that negotiations between the farmers' unions and the Government have "not yielded any result so far," the court said the constitution of a committee of experts in the field of agriculture to negotiate may create a congenial atmosphere and improve the trust and confidence of farmers.

"As a consequence, the Minimum Support Price system in existence before the enactment of the farm laws shall be maintained until further orders. In addition, the farmers' landholdings shall be

protected, i.e., no farmer shall be dispossessed or deprived of his title as a result of any action taken under the farm laws," the Bench said.

The committee comprises Bhupinder Singh Mann, national president of Bhartiya Kisan Union, All India Kisan Coordination Committee; Parmod Kumar Joshi, Director for South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute; Ashok Gulati, agricultural economist and former chairman of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, and Anil Ghanwat, president of Shetkari Sangathan.

Continued on Page 2

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Farmers boycott SC-appointed panel

Won't appear before 'pro-Govt' committee, will continue our protest: Unions

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Disapproving the Supreme Court-appointed committee to break the deadlock over the farm laws, the Sanyukt Kisan Morcha on Tuesday said that they will not appear before the panel as it is pro-Government and continue their agitation.

Addressing a Press conference at Singhu Border here, union leaders said they welcome apex court's order to suspend the implementation of the farm laws but this is not a solution and the farmer unions have not been asking for it.

"The Government must repeal the laws and it must understand that farmers and people of India are opposed to the laws. The SC has formed a committee in its own wisdom and farmer unions have nothing much to say on this. Farmer unions reiterate that they will not participate in any such committee process. Further, one of the apprehensions about such a process got validated in the very constitution of the



Farmer leader Darshan Pal Singh from Punjab, with others, addresses a press conference during their ongoing agitation against new farm laws at Singhu Border in New Delhi on Tuesday

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committee," said farmer leader Darshan Pal Singh. "It is clear that the court is being misguided by various forces even in its constitution of a committee. These are people who are known for their

committee," said farmer leader Darshan Pal Singh.

"It is clear that the court is being misguided by various forces even in its constitution of a committee. These are people who are known for their

support to the three Acts and have actively advocated for the same. It is not out of place to remind that the farmer unions have rejected a committee proposal from the Government too. Their dialogue is basically with an elected Government about its policy directions and concomitant laws," he said.

"The members of the SC-appointed committee are not dependable as they have been writing on how agri laws are pro-farmer. We will continue our agitation," said farmer leader Balbeer Singh Rajewal.

"The peaceful Kisan Parade on the Republic Day will be held at Delhi and all over the country in large numbers. The Government is trying to misguide the court on this too," said Ravinder Patiala, another farmers' leader.

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3 of 4 members of committee supporters of three farm laws

RAJESH KUMAR ■ NEW DELHI

A look at the credentials of the four members of the committee formed by the Supreme Court on Tuesday to resolve the deadlock over farmers' agitation reveals they have been vocal supporters of the Government's new farm laws.

The committee comprise Bhupinder Singh Mann of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, Anil Ghanwat of Shetkari Sangathan, Dr Pramod Kumar Joshi, former director for South Asia, International Food Policy Research Institute; and agricultural economist Ashok

Gulati.

Out of these four, Bhupinder Singh Mann is the only member who has supported the laws with some "amendments".

Ashok Gulati has been the most vocal supporter of the deregulation of agriculture markets. Gulati is an agricultural economist who was awarded the Padma Shri in 2015. He is an Infosys Chair Professor for Agriculture at the India Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). Gulati was also the youngest member of the Economic Advisory

Council of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and a member of the Economic Advisory Council of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and member of the State Planning Board of Karnataka.

From 2011 to 2014, he was the head of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

The panel recommends minimum support prices of various crops to the Government, and is attached to the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

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'Khalistanis' have infiltrated farmers stir, Govt tells SC

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Centre to file an affidavit on its claim that some banned organisations, including "Khalistanis", have infiltrated the ongoing farmers protest against the new farm laws.

Attorney General KK Venugopal, appearing for the Centre, said he will file an affidavit along with the necessary inputs of the IB.

Senior advocate PS Narasimha, appearing for intervenor "Indian Kisan Union" supporting the new farm laws, said some banned organisations have been fuelling the protests of farmers.

Covid daily count drops to 7-month low

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India reported the lowest single-day jump in coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours since mid-June with 12,584 fresh infections, the Union Health

Ministry said on Tuesday.

The Covid-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.44 per cent with the active caseload remaining below 3 lakh.

India's Covid-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on

August 7 and 50 lakh on September 16. It crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

Detailed report on P4

Covid-19 IN INDIA	STATES	TOTAL CASES	DEATHS	RECOVERED
TOTAL	Maharashtra	19,74,488	50,151	18,71,270
CASES: 1,04,93,758	Karnataka	9,28,806	12,149	9,07,729
DEATHS: 1,51,524	Andhra Pradesh	8,85,234	7,133	8,75,690
RECOVERED: 1,01,25,425	Tamil Nadu	8,27,614	12,236	8,08,571
ACTIVE: 2,12,466	Kerala	8,19,766	3,348	7,51,659
	Delhi	6,30,892	10,707	6,17,006
	Uttar Pradesh	5,93,680	8,504	5,74,312
	West Bengal	5,62,072	9,975	5,44,705
	Odisha	3,32,331	1,947	3,28,452
	Rajasthan	3,13,718	2,739	3,04,779
	Chhattisgarh	2,90,084	3,505	2,78,029
	Telangana	2,90,008	1,566	2,83,924
	Haryana	2,65,391	2,964	2,59,986
	Bihar	2,57,335	1,443	2,51,858
	Gujarat	2,53,161	4,350	2,41,472
	Madhya Pradesh	2,49,082	3,718	2,37,713



Army chief favours talks to defuse LAC tension

Says forces ready to hold ground as long as it takes to achieve national objective

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As his troops are braving harsh winters in Ladakh, Army Chief General MM Naravane said here on Tuesday that he favoured dialogue to defuse tension, but the forces are ready to hold ground as long as it takes to achieve the national objective. He also said the solution should be based on "equal and mutual security."

Making this point against the backdrop of scores of diplomatic and military-level talks failing to end the impasse at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), Naravane also underlined the "collusive threat" of Pakistan

and China and termed it as "potent threat."

Assuring that the armed forces are ready to face any challenge, he said eight rounds of military-level talks have taken so far and "if the process prolongs so be it. We are prepared to hold our ground as long it takes to achieve our national goals and objectives."

Addressing the annual Press conference ahead of the Army Day on January 15, he, however, was hopeful that India and China will be able to reach an agreement to resolve the eastern Ladakh standoff.

Operational preparedness of the Indian armed forces is of very high level and they will continue to hold onto their ground. Informing that the forces are alert all along the 4,000 km long LAC, the Army Chief said the stand-offs prompted the Army to do



Army Chief General MM Naravane addresses the Army Day annual press conference at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi on Tuesday

AP

rebalancing of troops.

The Army Chief also said reports indicated that China had pulled back its troops from the depth areas in the Tibetan plateau due to onset of winter months. He cautioned that not much should be read into it as the force levels at all the friction points at the LAC

remain the same.

He also said the depth areas or training grounds of China are at least 500 to 1,500 km away from the LAC. The need of the hour is to maintain vigil at the border where force levels were intact in Eastern Ladakh.

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Don't drop your guard as vaccine acts 14 days after 2nd dose: Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As India gears up for vaccinating three crore health workers from January 16 mega Covid-jab drive, the Government on Tuesday said there would be two doses of the vaccine which will be given at a 28-day interval.

"The effectiveness of the vaccine would begin only after 14 days of receiving the second dose. Hence it is imperative to maintain Covid-19 appropriate behavior even after receiving the coronavirus vaccine," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said, explaining the vaccination timeline here at a press conference.

"We also hope States, at the highest level, will exercise con-

tinuous oversight and personal involvement in the entire process of the rollout. There is a gap of 28 days between the two doses. Effectiveness begins 14 days after the second dose. Communication must highlight this aspect and Covid-appropriate behaviour," he said.

The Government Medical Store Department (GMSD) in Karnal, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai will be treated as the four main storage centres for the vaccine rollout, Bhushan said, adding that one regional vaccination store will also be designated in each State but some States may have more.

Bhushan said that there will be a sequential rollout of Covid-19 vaccination.

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2 Covid vaccines approved by India among cheapest in world

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With just five days left before India starts its nationwide inoculation drive on January 16, the Government on Tuesday released a price-wise comparison chart of all the vaccines in the world, claiming the two deployed by India are among the cheapest.

The Government has procured 55 lakh doses of Covaxin from the Bharat Biotech at a cost of ₹206 per dose. This is in addition to 1.1 crore doses of Covishield vaccine it procured from Serum Institute of India at a cost of ₹200 per dose.

"Pricewise our vaccines are the cheapest in the world," said Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan on Tuesday as he sought to refute allegations that the Government has shelled out higher prices for

purchasing the two vaccines.

Talking to the press reporters here, he pointed out that US pharma giant Pfizer's coronavirus vaccine will be priced at ₹2,800 for two doses while Moderna's will cost anywhere between ₹2,300 to ₹2,700 per dose. One vaccine developed by China has been priced at ₹5,600 per dose while another Chinese vaccine will be made available in India at ₹1,200 per dose.

Sputnik-V, the Covid-19 vaccine developed by Russia will cost ₹734 per dose while the one developed by Johnson & Johnson is also expected to be priced at ₹734 per dose, he added.

Asked about the vaccines approved by Indian regulators, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said both Covishield and Covaxin have established

safety and immunogenicity. "All preparations are on track for vaccine rollout. It will be a sequential rollout, depending on availability," he added.

NITI Aayog member and chairman of the National Expert Group on Vaccine Administration for Covid-19 (NEGVAC) Dr VK Paul said, "We should have no doubt that the two vaccines approved are the safest of the vaccines. Side effects are negligible. There is no risk of any significance, let's be reassured. We are telling you this truthfully and with responsibility."

Bhushan said that the country's regulators are looking at four more Covid-19 vaccines in the pipeline. Among these are the vaccines developed by Zydus Cadilla, Russia's Sputnik-V, Biological E and Genovva.

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Democrats push House to vote on Trump impeachment today

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives would vote on the impeachment of outgoing President Donald Trump on Wednesday on charges of inciting his supporters to carry out a violent attack on the Capitol Hill last week. Co-authored by Congressmen Jamie Raskin, David Cicilline and Ted Lieu, the article of impeachment — co-sponsored by 211 House members — was tabled on Monday.

During a conference call with his party colleagues on Monday, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said the impeachment vote will be held on Wednesday.

The article of impeach-



ment charges Trump with a count of "incitement of insurrection" for his actions on January 6, when he delivered a speech inciting his supporters to lay siege to the Capitol, an action that temporarily halted the counting of Electoral College votes and resulted in the deaths of five individuals, including an officer of the US

Capitol Police.

The Democrats have enough votes to impeach the president in the House, which requires a simple majority. But the Senate, where both the Republicans and Democrats have now 50-50 seats — would require votes of two-third of the members to remove the president out of the office. Vice President-elect Kamala Harris in her capacity as Chairperson of the Senate would add one more to the Democrats when necessary.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said the vote on impeachment in the upper chambers of the US Congress can not happen before the Inauguration Day on January 20.

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CAPSULE

RELOCATED TIGER FLEES FROM RAJAJI RESERVE

Rishikesh: A tiger translocated recently to Rajaji Tiger Reserve has fled from its Motichoor range creating panic among people living in the periphery of the forest area. The five-year-old male tiger dropped its radio-collar in the enclosure meant for it and fled somewhere, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Rajiv Bhartari said.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION SHRINKS 1.9% IN NOV

New Delhi: Industrial production contracted by 1.9 per cent in November, entering the negative territory after a two-month gap, mainly due to poor showing by manufacturing and mining sectors, official data showed on Tuesday.



Nepal won't compromise on sovereign equality: PM Oli

Kathmandu: Ahead of the Nepalese Foreign Minister's visit to New Delhi during which his talks are likely to be centered on the border row, Nepal's Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli has said that his country will not compromise on sovereign equality in its engagement with either India or China.

"The area (of) Limpiyadhura, Lipulekh and Kalapani is the territory of Nepal, is (a) very sacred part of Nepal," 68-year-old Oli was quoted as saying by the WION news channel."We are not in position to claim the territory of China or India. But we must claim our territory with our friends," said Oli, who had triggered the border row last year after his government came out with a new political map that showed the three Indian territories as part of Nepal.His remarks came just two days ahead of Nepalese Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali's visit to New Delhi on January 14 - the senior most political leader from Nepal to visit India after strain in bilateral ties.

On Sunday, Oli had said that Gyawali's discussions in New Delhi will be centered on the border issue.After Nepal released the map last year, India reacted sharply, calling it a "unilateral act" and cautioning Kathmandu that such

"artificial enlargement" of territorial claims will not be acceptable to it.India said that Nepal's action violated an understanding reached between the two countries to resolve the boundary issues through talks."I believe that 2021 will be the year where we can declare there are no problems between the two countries- Nepal and India," Oli said.He also offered to resolve differences between India and China, the channel said in a press release.

"If we can be instrumental to support them, help them to resolve the problems, we are ready," Oli said.On the domestic political crisis that led him to recommend the dissolution of the House of Representatives, Oli blamed former prime minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' for a split in the ruling Nepal Communist Party.He also defended his decision to dissolve the House, saying his actions were aimed at preventing Nepal from being pushed towards instability and horse-trading.

President Bidya Devi Bhandari dissolved the House of Representatives in December on the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli and announced mid-term general election in April-May, a decision termed "unconstitutional, impulsive and autocratic" by

the Opposition and the Prachanda-led faction in the ruling Nepal Communist Party."Their (Prachanda faction) positions are still there in my party. My second chairman is Pushpa Kamal Dahal-even now, senior leaders are Jhala Nath Khanal and Madhav Nepal-even now. If they come, I can pardon them," Oli said, apparently offering an olive branch to his rival faction.Oli also claimed that some elements of India are hatching a conspiracy to unseat him from office, but he ruled out Chinese hand in Nepal's internal politics.

"We love our independence and freedom to decide on our internal affairs, and we don't want any type of interference from outside, from north or south," said Oli, referring to China and India. In December, China sent a four-member high-level delegation to Nepal to prevent a split within the NCP. The team - led by a Vice minister of the Chinese Communist Party, Guo Yezhou - held separate meetings with several top NCP leaders before returning home without much success in its mission. India has described Oli's sudden decision to dissolve Parliament and call for fresh elections as an "internal matter" that is for the country to decide as per its democratic processes. **PTI**

Will induct new Ministers into Cabinet today at 4 pm: BSY

Bengaluru: The much-awaited Cabinet expansion of the Karnataka cabinet will take place on Wednesday at 4 pm, with the induction of seven ministers, Karnataka Chief Minister B. S. Yediyurappa said here on Tuesday.

The expansion comes a day before one of Karnataka's biggest festivals - Makara Sankranti, and is considered as a very auspicious day to commence any new work.

"Seven new ministers will be inducted into the cabinet and the new list of ministers will be announced at 4 pm on Wednesday," Yediyurappa said.

The BJP high command cleared the much-delayed Cabinet expansion on Sunday.

To a question on whether any ministers will be dropped from the cabinet, Yediyurappa said that the answer to the question who would be dropped will be clear only on Wednesday. "I only appeal to the media not to speculate by writing names as it only adds to confusion," he said.

On Saturday, Yediyurappa had received a call from BJP central leaders and he met BJP National President J. P. Nadda, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and party general secretary in-charge for the state Arun Singh on Sunday to discuss the cabinet expansion and the upcoming bypolls to the Basavakalyana and Maski Assembly seats and the Belagavi Parliamentary seat. **IANS**

Punjab FM Manpreet launches one time settlement scheme for recovery of outstanding dues

Ludhiana/Chandigarh: Punjab Finance Minister Manpreet Singh Badal on Tuesday launched the One Time Settlement (OTS) scheme for the recovery of outstanding dues 2021, to clear and settle their pending arrears. Manpreet Singh Badal said that the performance of the other ministries reflects that of the Finance Ministry.

"Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and centre's stoppage of Punjab's share of GST and RDE, the State has not gone into over-draft" revealed the FM adding that Punjab especially Ludhiana have it in them to further rise up the ladder of economic progress

which is due to the hardworking nature of the Punjabi community whose trust reposed in the Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh led Government would never be broken.

Manpreet Singh Badal said this while chairing a state-level function organised regarding the OTS Scheme at Dr Manmohan Singh Auditorium at Punjab Agricultural University, here today. He was also accompanied by Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu, PWD Minister Vijay Inder Singla, PPCB President Sunil Jakhar, besides several others.

IndiGo's Patna airport manager shot dead

New Delhi: IndiGo's airport manager in Patna was shot dead by unidentified gunmen outside his home on Tuesday evening, said aviation industry sources. The airline confirmed the incident and said it is "extremely saddened by the demise of our Patna airport manager". "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones. We are in contact with his family and providing them our full support, while cooperating with the relevant authorities in the ongoing investigation," it added in its statement. The aviation industry sources said Rupesh Singh was shot multiple times outside his home in Patna when he returned from his duty on Tuesday evening. **PTI**

Democrats push House to vote on Trump impeachment today

From Page 1
Later on Monday, Congresswoman Ilhan Omar also introduced two articles of impeachment against Trump. The first article cites Trump's abuse of power for attempting to overturn the 2020 presidential election results in Georgia. The second article addresses the incitement of violence for orchestrating an attempted coup against our country.

"I just introduced my impeachment resolution. The full House will now vote on a measure calling on Vice President (Mike) Pence and the cabinet to remove President Donald Trump under the 25th amendment. If Pence does not act, the House will move to impeach this week," Omar said. Republican Senator Steve Daines rejected calls for impeachment. "Now is the time to stand united, move forward together and have a peaceful transition of power. Pushing partisan driven articles of impeachment through Congress days before the inauguration will further divide our country," he said. Republican Congressman Matt Gaetz said impeachment is unnecessary, divisive, and it's only being done because Democrats want to keep the focus on Trump so they can hold together their fragile coalition.

"This week, the House will vote to impeach Donald Trump for inciting an insurrection against the seat of our democracy," said Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur.

"Liberty and the rule of law, though always fragile, are bedrock tenets of our democratic republic. No President - nay, no American - ought to be able to incite violence against our democracy without repercussion. The American people demand accountability to prevent such horrific events from ever happening again," she said. **PTI**

SC stays 3 farm laws for fruitful parleys

From Page 1
The Bench said the committee shall be provided a place as well as secretarial assistance at Delhi by the Government and all the expenses for sittings at Delhi or anywhere else shall be borne by the Centre.

"The representatives of all the farmers' bodies, whether they are holding a protest or not and whether they support or oppose the laws shall participate in the deliberations of the committee and put forth their viewpoints. The committee shall, upon hearing the Government as well as the representatives of the farmers' bodies, and other stakeholders, submit a report before this court containing its recommendations.

This shall be done within two months from the date of its first sitting.

The first sitting shall be held within ten days from today," it said. "The implementation of the three farm laws (1) Farmers' Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020; (2) Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2020; and (3) Farmers (Empowerment and Protection) Agreement on Price Assurance and Farm Services Act, 2020, shall stand stayed until further orders," the top court said and posted the matter for hearing after eight weeks.

The court said it is passing the interim order after hearing different perspectives with the hope and expectation that both parties will take this in the right spirit and attempt to arrive at a fair, equitable and just solution to the problems.

"We are also of the view that a stay of implementation of all the three farm laws for the present, may assuage the hurt feelings of the farmers and encourage them to come to the negotiating table with confidence and good faith," it said.

"Laudably, the farmers have so far carried on the agitation peacefully and without any untoward incident," the Bench said.

The Bench also noted that Attorney General KK Venugopal, while agreeing for constitution of a committee, had vehemently opposed the grant of any interim stay on the implementation of these farm laws.

"Though we appreciate the aforesaid submission of the Attorney General, this court cannot be said to be completely powerless to grant stay of any executive action under a statutory enactment," the Bench said.

It passed the interim order on a batch of pleas, including those challenging the validity of these farm laws, those supporting these legislations and those raising the issue of farmers protesting at Delhi borders.

Don't drop your guard as ...

From Page 1
ICMR Director General Dr Balram Bhargava said, "Vaccine dose will be given four weeks apart. Some literature shows it can be given up to six weeks but we'd like to stick to four weeks."

The top drug regulator had recently granted emergency use authorisation to two vaccines, Oxford's Covishield being manufactured by Serum Institute of India and Bharat Biotech's Covaxin. Both vaccines, the statement from the Health Ministry said, have established safety and immunogenicity.

Dr V K Paul member, NITI Aayog member, said these two vaccines have been tested in thousands of people, they are the safest and there is no risk of any significance.

"We should have no doubt that the two vaccines approved are the safest of the vaccines. Both the vaccines have been tested on thousands of people and side-effects are negligible. There is no risk of any significance," he said.

"Healthcare workers (approximately one crore) will be on the top priority, followed by frontline workers (approximately 2 crore) and prioritized age groups (approximately 27 crore). The cost of healthcare workers and frontline workers will be borne by the Central Government," Bhushan said.

When asked if the States and beneficiaries will be given a choice between Covaxin and Covishield, Bhushan said that in many countries, more than one vaccine is being used. There is no such option available to any of the beneficiaries in these countries.

Army chief favours talks to defuse LAC tension

From Page 1
At present, more than 50,000 Chinese troops are deployed all along the LAC in Ladakh and India also responded by positioning nearly the same number of mountain warfare trained troops.

Explaining the sequence of events leading to the nine-month long stand-offs, the Army Chief said every year China holds exercises in the Tibetan plateau. However, China being the first mover had the advantage of surprise he said in obvious reference to the transgressions.

The Indian Army reciprocated in August when its crack troops occupied heights and surprised the Chinese,

Naravane said adding "it put us in the advantage despite eyeball to eyeball confrontation".

He was referring to the Indian troops taking control of dominating heights in the Chushul region of the southern bank of Pangong Tso. By gaining control of dominating heights, Indian can overlook Chinese Moldo Garrison. India military has occupied some strategic heights - Magar Hill, Gurung Hill, Gorkha Hill and Regin La, and are within their side of the LAC.

As regards the collusive threat of Pakistan and China, the Army Chief said it cannot be wished away. The security establishment regularly carries out review and the armed forces are ready

to deal with a two-front war if need be, he said.

The Army next year will have its first batch of women pilots flying helicopters in operational areas including Siachen and rugged mountains of the north-east. Making this announcement here on Tuesday, Army Chief General MM Naravane said here he approved the proposal last month and the first batch of women pilots will start training from July this year. The one-year training will enable them to undertake flying missions and perform frontline duties. At present, women officers are posted at the air traffic control units. The IAF and Navy have already inducted women officers as pilots.

Farmers boycott...

From Page 1
"Farmers are doing indefinite sit-in strike at more than 20 places in Bihar. Farmers have held meetings at more than 80 places in Chhattisgarh and they are preparing to join the protest at Delhi borders," said Darshan Pal Singh.

"In Gulbarga of Karnataka, people have staged a bike rally to protest against the three farm laws. Hundreds of farmers from Kerala are coming to Delhi borders. Big demonstrations were also held in Vijayawada and Hyderabad. In Rajasthan and Haryana, farmers are joining the agitation under the Jagrukta Pakhwada and various demonstrations are being held in many districts," he said.

"Farmers are preparing to celebrate Lohri festival tomorrow on all the borders of Delhi, on which farmers are holding dharnas. This time the Lohri festival will be celebrated by burning copies of three Central farm laws. A large number of farmers from Uttar Pradesh are joining this movement at Ghaziपुर border. Street plays by Delhi artists were also presented on Tikri stage. The number of readers to the libraries is increasing day by day. Lawyers and artists joined the protests at Singhu Border and also provided them with some needy things," said the farmers leaders.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the implementation of the controversial farm laws till further orders and set up a four-member committee to resolve the impasse between the Centre and the farmer unions protesting at Delhi's borders over the legislations.

The four members of the committee are BKU president Bhupinder Singh Mann, Shetkari Sangathan (Maharashtra) president Anil Ghanwat, South Asia Director for International Food Policy Research Institute Pramod Kumar Joshi, and agriculture economist Ashok Gulati.

Thousands of farmers, mostly from Haryana and Punjab, have been protesting at several border points of Delhi since November 28 last year, demanding a repeal of the three laws and a legal guarantee to the minimum support price (MSP) system for their crops.

3 of 4 members...

From Page 1
In May 2020, when the laws were still in the consideration process, he has also written opinion pieces for the Indian Express, titled "Challenges to Farm Bills Harken Socialist Era, Attempt to undo Agriculture 1991 Moment," and "We Need Laws that Give Farmers More Space to Sell Their Produce -- New Farm Laws Fit This Bill".

He wrote that the proposed "changes can go a long way in building efficient value chains and ensuring better returns for farmers. The consumers will also be ensured better products without burdening their pockets."

However, in a more recent article for The Indian Express, titled "To help farmers, the right approach is through Farmer Producer Organisations, not APMC mandis", he advised the Government to be prepared to give a written guarantee that the existing system of APMC markets and MSP will continue and be strengthened.

"The Government can also give in writing that the contract will be for the produce, not the land," he wrote. At present, Gulati is on the Central Board of Directors of the RBI, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and commodity exchange NCDEX.

Dr Joshi is a leading name in the field of agriculture research. He has served as the director of the National Academy of Agricultural Research Management,

Hyderabad, and the director of the National Centre for Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi. Dr Joshi was previously the South Asia Coordinator at the International Food Policy Research Institute and senior economist at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics in Patancheru.

Joshi has strongly opposed giving a legal backing to minimum support prices and has advocated contract farming as a 'win-win situation' for all stakeholders. Joshi has written articles in past days regretting prolonged agitation by farmers and noting that the Centre had made all our efforts to accommodate genuine concerns of the protesters. Joshi has also said that the agitators have been changing goaltposts and had begun by seeking Government assurance that the MSP won't be discontinued.

An article in the Financial Express co-authored by Joshi with AK Padee, says, "The farm-agitations' demand to repeal the three farm laws and legalise minimum support prices (MSPs) baffle us, given the apprehensions over the impact of the laws on the farmers are mostly misplaced."

The two farm leaders on the panel --- Bhupinder Singh Mann of the BKU and Anil Ghanwat of Maharashtra-based Shetkari Sangathan -- had in mid-December met Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar and called for the implementation

of the laws after bringing certain amendments to satisfy the protesters.

Bhupinder Singh Mann is the national president of Bharatiya Kisan Union (BKU), which is part of the All India Kisan Coordination Committee. He was Rajya Sabha member from 1990-96. He also helped form the All India Kisan Coordination Committee (AIKCC), a platform which aims to bring together various State-level farmers' organisations. On 14 December, 2020, a group of farmers' organisations, under the banner of the AIKCC, had handed over a memorandum demanding that the three laws be implemented, but with some amendments.

Anil Ghanwat is the president of the Maharashtra-based Shetkari Sangathan which has been backing the Government in the entire agitation by farmers. On August 20, 2020, members of the Shetkari Sangathan across several districts in Maharashtra submitted letters addressed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the local tehsildar's office, welcoming the farm Bills. The organisation even took the streets and burst crackers to show its support for the laws.

Ghanwat said on Tuesday the new farm laws partially implement what his outfit has been demanding for decades. His attempt will be to improve them, he said, while coming out in support of reforms including permission for contract farming.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SECTION (FAS)

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI)

1st Floor Maharana Pratap ISBT Building, Kashmere Gate Delhi

Public Notice

The Department of Women & Child Development, Govt. of NCT of Delhi is implementing the scheme of Delhi Pension Scheme to Women in Distress for the widows, divorced, separated/ destitute or abandoned women under which an assistance of Rs. 2500/- per month is remitted to the aadhar linked bank account of the eligible beneficiary.

Under the aforesaid scheme, the beneficiaries who are getting double pension or have remarried or whose income exceeds 1 (one) lakh or the family whose beneficiary under the scheme has passed away and the financial assistance is being remitted due to lack of information to the department. In this context, it is informed to all concerned that receiving financial assistance in such a manner and not informing the department for stopping the pension is against the rule of the scheme and is illegal.

All such ineligible beneficiaries and their relatives are hereby informed to contact the District Office of the Department of Women and Child Development or Headquarter (Email Id: ddfas01@gmail.com or wed@nic.in) and inform immediately to stop the widow pension. In this context, if found guilty, legal action will be taken by the department as may be necessary.

Director
Department of Women & Child Development, GNCTD
DIP/Shabdarth/0547/20-21

CENTRAL ORGANISATION FOR RAILWAY ELECTRIFICATION

(Office of the Principal Chief Materials Manager)
1, Nawab Yusuf Road, Civil Lines,
Prayagraj-211001 Fax No.: 0532-2407797

E-Tender Notice No.: CORE/S 03195007 Dated: 12.01.2021

E-TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the President of India, PCMM, Central Organization For Railway Electrification, Prayagraj, invites following Reverse Auction E-TENDER.

E-tender No. & Brief Description	Quantity in Mt.	Tender Due Date
03195007: Joint less Hard Drawn Grooved Copper Contact Wire, 107 sq.mm made out of continuous cast copper wire rod as per RDSO's specification No. ETI/OHE/76 (6/97) with A and C clips no. 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.	991.46	09.02.2021

Tender Cost: Nil, **Earnest money:** Nil, **Note:-** 1. The complete information of above E-Tender and Tender document are available on IREPS website i.e. <http://www.ireps.gov.in>. 2. **Only E-Bids shall be accepted against above Tender.** The e-bids may be submitted before 11.00 hrs. on tender opening date. 3. **Procurement policy:** Bulk purchase will be made only from those firms who have been approved by RDSO for the tendered item on opening date. 4. **Bidding System:** Reverse Auction (Two Packet System). 5. In case of any technical difficulty, helpdesk of CRIS/New Delhi may be approached. The Telephone numbers are:- 011-24105180, 24102855, 24100746, 24671469.

Principal Chief Materials Manager
Central Organization for Railway Electrification, Prayagraj
For & on behalf of President of India
No. PR/640/2021
R.D. Adv
"Serving Customers with a Smile"

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice

Email:- cos@ner.railnet.gov.in Website www.ner.indianrailways.gov.in Fax No. 0551-2200721

TENDER NOTICE No. 29 Date 12.01.2021

Invitation of Tenders through e-Procurement system
Principal Chief Material Manager, North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur, and on behalf of The President of India, invites tenders through e-procurement system for the supply of the following items. Complete description of the item and other condition are available on website www.ireps.gov.in.

Item No.	Tender Number	Due On	Brief Description of Stores	Reserved to be procured from	Qty. Required	Earnest Money (Rs.)
1	22201226	05.02.2021	Set of Prevailing Torque Type etc.	Nil	10000 Set.	11180/-
2	29200104	16.02.2021	Low Maintenance Lead Acid etc.	RDSO	1292 Nos.	71540/-
3	29201029	17.02.2021	D.C. Motor Assembly etc.	RDSO	5000 Nos.	1341520/-
4	29201024	17.02.2021	Base Assembly set etc.	Nil	3642 Nos.	991640/-

CPRO/S-43 **Principal Chief Material Manager, Gorakhpur**
About any passenger amenity complaint SMS on Mob. No.: 09794845955
Never travel on roof and foot boards

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS

LOST & FOUND

I, Dinesh Marhwh S/o Late Shri R.B. Marhwh R/o W-24, Greater Kailash 2, South Delhi-110048, have Lost all my receipts totaling Rs. 3,00,000/- for farm land No. C-35, of Project Ansal Aravali Retreats, Sohna Gurgaon. if found please call- 09811417487 Email ID : vipulkochhar69@yahoo.com PD(8880)A

Cabinet OK's subsidy to Govt school students for study materials

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Cabinet has approved the financial transactions related to some key initiatives, including financial aid, in the form of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the Government and aided school students for textbooks and writing material.

Besides, funds have been allocated to Delhi Bureau of

Textbooks (DBT) to publish and distribute support materials, student diaries, workbooks, material related to Happiness Curriculum, mental Maths, etc.

The Cabinet headed by the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, also approved the setting up of Project Management Unit (PMU) to examine the fee hike proposal by private schools on govern-



ment land for the year 2018-19 and 2019-20. The Delhi Cabinet approved the aforementioned measures in its latest meeting.

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister and Education Minister Manish Sisodia said that the Government wants to limit the disruption caused to the education of children as much as possible.

“Through financial assis-

tance, we hope all our children will be able to purchase study material and textbooks and be connected with their studies. Despite financial constraints, we will do everything we can from our side for our children so their studies are not affected,” he said.

Annually, the Directorate of Education of the Delhi Government provides textbooks and cash through DBT

to school students of government and aided schools to classes 1 to class 8 and cash subsidy to students of classes 9 to 12.

The Delhi Government has approved Rs 64.37 crore for incurring expenditure towards disbursement of cash subsidy for the students of government and aided schools this year.

Besides, under the Delhi

Government's scheme 'Free Supply of Textbook supplies and Material 2020-2021', an additional recurring expenditure of Rs.30.05 crore has been allocated. Under this provision, supply of allied material, workbooks, mental maths material, teacher diaries including nursery and KG textbooks to the government and aided schools will be made by Delhi Bureau of Text books (DBTB).

In addition to these financial schemes, the Cabinet approved two NICSI empanelled firms to set up PMU with reputed chartered accountants to examine fee hike proposals of private recognized unaided schools on government land in Delhi. This will enable faster disposal of the proposal for fee hike submitted by the schools for the session 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Many schemes in 2 years, some for first time in world: Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday said that his Government has launched various flagship schemes in last two years and some of these schemes was launched for the first time in the world.

Addressing the concluding session of the Chief Minister's Urban Leaders Fellowship (CMULF) programme, Kejriwal appreciated the fellows for their hard work and wished them luck for their future endeavours.

The Chief Minister said that in these two years, the CMUL fellowship program has sensitized the fellows towards resolving the problems of the general public by working on some critical policies of the Government.

Kejriwal also appreciated the fellows for working on these policies with diligence. Minister of Administrative Reforms Kailash Gehlot was also present at the meeting, along with other Delhi Government officials including Chief Secretary

Kejriwal also appreciated the fellows for working on these policies with diligence. Minister of Administrative Reforms Kailash Gehlot was also present at the meeting, along with other Delhi Government officials including Chief Secretary.

Assessing the gathering, Gehlot said, "I want to congratulate you all for working on various levels of executing the flagship schemes of the Delhi Government.

Wanted criminal with bounty of ₹25,000 held with associate

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM

The crime investigation Agency (CIA) of the Gurugram police arrested a wanted inter-State criminal along with his aide from the Dwarka expressway near Garhi Harsaru village in Gurugram on Monday.

The police said on Tuesday that a bounty of Rs 25,000 had been fixed on one criminal.

The arrested accused were identified as Akash alias Ashu of Bamdoli village in Gurugram, the Haryana police had fixed a bounty of Rs 25,000 on him. The other accused was identified as Jasveer alias Jassa of Jind district in Haryana.

The police added that the nabbed culprits were involved in two dozen cases, including murder, kidnapping and extortion and snatching.

The nabbed culprits were involved in two dozen cases, including murder, attempt to murder, kidnapping and extortion and snatching

“Akash was the kingpin of this gang. Including Akash, we have arrested 13 gang members of his gang in which the Haryana police had fixed a bounty of Rs 25 thousand each on Akash and Ankit and Rs 5,000 each on Ajit and Monu.

Till now we have recovered 1 revolver, 8 live cartridges and a Mahindra Scorpio car from their possession,” said Preet Pal Sangwan, ACP (Crime).

According to the police, the accused were arrested by the crime branch team of Palam Vihar unit led by Inspector Joginder Singh, from the

Dwarka expressway near Garhi Harsaru village in Gurugram on Sunday after a tip-off.

During interrogation, the kingpin of the gang Akash disclosed that on November 15 he along with his gang members had attacked the family members of a former sarpanch of Bamdoli village in which around four people sustained critical injuries during the incident.

“All the nabbed culprits were habitual offenders and have served jail terms in the past. Akash wanted to establish his domination in his village so that he along with his accomplices had allegedly attacked on the victims,” Sangwan said.

It may be recalled that in 2007, Akash had killed his classmate inside his school premises with his father's licence pistol. The incident had hit the several headlines at that time.

Sisodia dismisses manager of labour office over irregularities in registration of workers

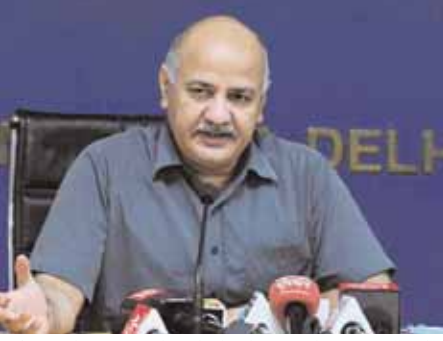
STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia terminated the manager of the North-West Delhi Labour Office with immediate effect after he was found to be involved in 'grave' 'irregularities' in a dozen cases.

Sisodia who is also the Labour Minister conducted a surprise inspection after receiving complaints of irregularities in the registration of Delhi's construction workers and decided to discontinue the services of the manager after grave irregularities were found in a dozen cases.

During the inspection, Sisodia also directed the labour officers to carry out all the work related to registration and welfare of the labourers as per the rules and within the stipulated time period.

“The complaints ranged from not following proper procedure to negligence on behalf of labour office workers who used photographs of women instead of men in the registration documents. In another case, irregularity was found in the registration of a worker who visited the office but used a photo clicked earlier instead



of a photograph clicked on the spot,” the deputy chief minister office said in a statement.

Sisodia directed the labour officers to finish all the work related to registration, renewal and providing welfare benefits to construction workers on time. “When the Delhi government has made comprehensive plans for the welfare of city's construction workers, then all the deserving workers should be able to avail their benefits. No negligence will be tolerated in this matter,” he said.

Baijal transfers eight IPS officers across Capital

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

In a major reshuffle, the Delhi Lieutenant Governor, Anil Baijal on Tuesday transferred eight Indian Police Service (IPS) officers to new postings across the National Capital.

According to the order issued by L-G office on Tuesday, the IPS 2003 batch Prem Nath, Additional Commissioner of Police, Cyber Cell and Technology Cell has been promoted as Joint CP, Cyber Cell and Technology Cell.

“B K Singh, the Additional CP, Crime (IPS 2003 batch) has

been promoted as Joint CP, Crime. Rajneesh Gupta (IPS 2005 batch) has been appointed as Additional CP, Police Technology Cell while IPS 2008 batch, Ajay Krishna Sharma, has been given the charge of Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Police Technology Cell,” the order stated.

“Vijayanta Arya, (IPS 2009 batch), the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Northwest district has been transferred to Economic Offence Wing while Additional DCP of West district, Sameer Sharma, the IPS 2011 batch has

been given the charge of DCP, 1st Battalion,” the order stated. “Usha Rangnani (2011 batch IPS), the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Police Control Room (PCR) has been given the charge of DCP, Northwest. Prashant Priya Gautam of the 2013 batch IPS and posted as DCP, Traffic has been transferred as Additional DCP, West district,” the order further stated. Sameer Sharma of 2013 batch IPS and posted as Additional DCP West district has been sent to the 1st Delhi Armed Police battalion as DCP, the order stated.

Cong seeks L-G's intervention in rebuilding Hanuman Temple

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A delegation of the Delhi Congress led by its president Anil Kumar on Tuesday submitted a memorandum to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Anil Baijal, seeking his intervention in the reconstruction of a Hanuman Temple in Chandni Chowk that was allegedly demolished by the BJP-ruled North Delhi Municipal Corporation to widen a road.

A copy of the memorandum has also been sent to Union Home Minister Amit

Shah, seeking his intervention in the reconstruction of the Hanuman Temple.

The Congress memorandum has drawn the attention of the Lt. Governor that the oldest Hanuman Mandir, where people of all faiths used to worship due to its central location was demolished without any forethought in an overnight operation, by the North MCD, after getting the approval of the Arvind Government in Delhi, as both had termed the temple as an “encroachment”.

Kumar impressed upon the Lt. Governor that this

Hanuman Temple was consecrated before Independence by adhering to all the rites for idol worship. The Congress leader said that this temple had become a place of worship for people from all faiths, not only for the residents of Old Delhi but also for lakhs of people who visit Chandni Chowk, Red Fort, and the Old Delhi area from across the country every day.

The memorandum pointed out that the demolition of the Hanuman Temple has wounded the religious sentiments of the people and shock-



ingly the Hanuman idol has been consigned to an MCD godown as a “case property”. The Congress delegation pleaded with the Lt. Governor that considering the hurt sentiments of the people, the Mandir should be re-built at its original place.

Kumar while talking to

the media said that Congress will spare no effort in ensuring that the Hanuman temple is reconstructed at the same place where it had stood, and criticized the BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party Government for shedding crocodile tears, after conspiring in the demolition of the temple.

Delegation of Goenkars thanks Kejriwal for setting-up of Konkani Academy

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A delegation of Goenkars living in Delhi met with the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Tuesday and thanked him for notifying the setting-up of the Konkani Academy by the Delhi Government.

Kejriwal said that the Konkani culture should be

spread and propagated to everyone. “People should learn from other cultures, that is how integration takes place and that is the beauty of India,” he said.

The chief minister also said that he looks forward to seeing everyone participate actively in all the programs, including Konkani music, drama, dance.

“We have people coming from across the country from states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal, Gujarat, East and North-East India etc. Likewise, we have people from Goa who have come and settled in Delhi. And I am so happy to learn that all the Goans who have settled in Delhi have formed their own associations of Goenkars,” he

said. Kejriwal further said that the Delhi government had set up Marathi academy last year, which has been running since then.

“It was the demand of the Konkani speaking people since then that a Konkani academy should also be set-up. Since the time we have announced the Konkani Academy, it has been

received very well and I am glad that everybody is happy with the setting-up of the academy,” he added.

In a Cabinet meeting held on January 8, the Delhi Government had approved the setting up of Konkani Academy to facilitate the growth and promotion of the Konkani language and culture in the national capital.

The academy will be set up under the Department of Art, Culture, and Languages of the Delhi Government, for the people of Delhi to have exposure to the rich Konkani culture, language, literature, and folk arts.

The newly set-up academy will soon be allocated an office space with the entire necessary infrastructure.

Rising Ammonia levels affect water supply

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has curtailed water supply from 'Water Treatment Plants' situated at Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla due to the rising level of ammonia in the River Yamuna.

The DJB in a statement said that water supply shall be affected on Wednesday in areas such as Civil lines, Hindu Rao Hospital, Kamla Nagar, Shakti Nagar, Karol Bagh, Paharganj, New Delhi Municipal Council areas, Old and new Rajinder Nagar, Patel Nagar (East and West), Baljeet Nagar, Prem Nagar, Inderpuri, Kalkaji, Govindpuri, Tugalkabad, Sangam Vihar, Ambekar Nagar, Prahladpur, Ramlala Ground, Delhi gate, Subhash Park, Model Town, Gulabi Bagh, Punjabi Bagh, Jahangirpuri, Moolchand, South Extension, Greater kailash, Burari, parts of cantonment areas, South Delhi

DJB has curtailed water supply from 'Water Treatment Plants' situated at Wazirabad, Chandrawal and Okhla



and adjoining areas.

The DJB has regretted the inconvenience and advised the public to make judicious use of water.

Cong workers greet Priyanka on her birthday

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

As the Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra turned a year older on Tuesday, scores of Congress leaders, party workers and supporters across the country greeted her and tweeted warm birthday wishes. Delhi Congress vice president and senior dalit leader Jai Kishan distributed blankets, sweets and fruits among needy and underprivileged patients admitted in Sanjay Gandhi Hospital in Mangolpuri, Bhagwan Mahavir Hospital in Pitampura and Rohini Lord Maharishi Valmiki Hospital of Puth, including Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hospital.

“Due to Corona virus across the country, the party worker has done this program with limited number and very simplicity. Our leader always works for the poor and underprivileged and hence We are distributing blankets to save them from cold,” Jai Kishan said. The Congress leader hailed the Gandhi family contribution in Indian Politics. He said that under Priyanka Gandhi leadership, the Congress will perform well in UP's next polls.

Delhiites must vote AAP to power in MCD polls to make Delhi cleaner: Atishi

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Senior Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and MLA Atishi on Tuesday said that the citizens of Delhi should vote the AAP to power in Municipal elections in order to make Delhi cleaner and to remove the corruption. Atishi said that the citizens of Delhi again voted AAP to power because we fulfilled all the promises we made before the 2015 elections.

“Today was the sixth day of the Mohalla Sabhas organised by the AAP to expose the BJP ruled MCD. AAP organised around 205 Mohalla Sabhas in about 55 legislative assembly constituencies of Delhi. These Mohalla Sabhas witnessed a footfall of around 21,000 people,” she said. The AAP will continue the development works done by the Delhi government in the MCD too, she added.

UP's wanted criminal held

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police has arrested a wanted criminal of eastern Uttar Pradesh, Kanhaiya Vishwakarma alias Girdhari, who allegedly killed a rival gang member in a shootout in the posh Gomti Nagar area of Lucknow last week.

Police said that they have also recovered One 9 mm pistol and a live cartridge from the possession of the accused. Police said that a reward of Rs one lakh was declared on his arrest in a 2019 case where he killed one Ritesh in Varanasi. Girdhari was also a resident of Varanasi district of Uttar Pradesh (UP).

According to a senior police

Police said that they have also recovered One 9 mm pistol and a live cartridge from the possession of the accused. Police said that a reward of Rs one lakh was declared on his arrest in a 2019 case where he killed one Ritesh in Varanasi

official, on Monday, the special staff of Outer North district of the Delhi Police got a tip-off regarding a suspicious person having weapon in Rohini's Sector-11 area.

“Thereafter, a team was formed and the accused was apprehended. Interrogation

revealed that on January 6, he killed one Ajit Singh of the rival gang member in Lucknow,” said the senior police official.

Ajit, 39, who was a notorious criminal of Mau district having 17 cases against him, and his associate Mohar Singh were travelling in an SUV when three motorcycle-borne assailants opened fire at them.

After killing Ajit, he wanted to make Delhi as his hideout. He reached Delhi on Monday and while Vishwakarma was searching a house for him, he was arrested, police said.

Over 20 cases have been registered against him. The first case was registered of a robbery in 2001, police added.

DDA okays change of land use for new structure of Ravidas Temple

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) in its meeting approved a proposal to change the land use of a plot allotted by it for building a new structure of the Guru Ravidas Temple, which was demolished by the urban body on the directions of the Supreme Court in 2019.

The meeting was chaired by Delhi Lieutenant (LG) Governor Anil Baijal who is the chairman of the urban body.

According to official, the new structure will come at the Jahanpanah City Forest area in the National Capital.

The approved land was allotted by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) "at the same site" where the old structure existed in the forest area in south Delhi.

The decision to change the use of the allotted 400 sqm of land from "recreational to public and semi-public for religious purpose" was taken during an online meeting of the

THE NEW STRUCTURE WILL COME AT THE JAHANPANAH CITY FOREST AREA IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Authority, the highest decision-making body of the DDA.

In early October last year, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had approved the proposal to allot the piece of land, and also recommended the change of land use.

"After the allotment, a public notice was issued inviting objections and suggestions from the public for this purpose. After that, it went to the Board of Enquiry and Hearing, which cleared the proposal. And, today it was approved by the Authority too," a senior official said.

It will now be sent to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for final notification.

The Delhi LG Office tweeted the decisions made during the meeting.

"Also approved proposals for change of land use for expansion of facilities of ILBS Hospital and for religious purposes for Sant Guru Ravidas ji temple in Jahanpanaha City Forest," it tweeted.

In August 2019, huge protests had broken out in Delhi and Punjab by members

and leaders of the Dalit community after the structure of the old Ravidas temple was demolished by the DDA on directions of the Supreme Court.

Among other decision approved by the Authority, included modification in Master Plan of Delhi 2021 pertaining to warehouse or warehousing schemes and area norms for sewage treatment plants (STP), the LG Office said in the tweet.

Revision in development

control norms for setting up of fuel stations-CNG in community centres; and extension of existing rates of additional FAR (floor area ratio) and use conversion upto June 30, 2021, were other proposals which were approved in the meeting, it said.

"Advised the officials to closely monitor and ensure timebound disposal of applications under #PMUDAY conferring property rights to the residents of UCs," the LG said in another tweet.

Dynastic politics biggest enemy of democracy: PM



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday lambasted dynastic politics as the “biggest enemy” of democracy and said it gives rise to a new form of “dictatorship” and burdens the country with “incompetence”. He said “these dynasties” are also a very big reason behind political and social corruption in the country.

Addressing the valedictory function of the second National Youth Parliament Festival, Modi launched an all out attack on dynastic parties, saying those who rise due to their dynasties have no respect and fear of law as they believe if their previous generations were not accounted for corruption, none can touch them as well.

“They see such examples in their own families. So they have neither respect nor fear of law,” he said, asking youngsters to join politics as this is “necessary” to save it. “It is true that (in politics) the fortunes of those who have been winning elections on the basis of surnames are dwindling. But in

politics, this disease of dynastic politics is not completely finished,” said Modi without any political families. Though people have now been supporting honesty and performance, and the legacy of “corruption” of those in dynastic politics have become a burden for them, but the “disease of dynastic politics” has not been fully eradicated, the Prime Minister said.

“There are still people whose conduct, ideas and goals are all aimed at saving their family politics and their families in politics. Dynastic politics gives rise to a new form of dictatorship in democracy and burdens the country with incompetence. Dynastic politics only strengthens the sentiment of ‘me and my family’ instead of ‘nation first’” he said.

Modi, however, added that things have changed from a time when people associated politics with “violence, corruption and loot” and thought it cannot change. A youngster joining politics was seen as someone who has gone astray,

India, Bangladesh to jointly fight terrorism



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India and Bangladesh on Tuesday agreed to enhance the fight against terrorist entities, including global terrorist groups as well as other fugitives, wherever they are present and active. The first delegation-level virtual police chiefs’ dialogue between India and Bangladesh also agreed to establish designated ‘nodal points’ for timely and effective handling and response to existing as well as emerging security and counter-terrorism challenges.

India and Bangladesh agreed to enhance their work jointly against terrorist entities including global terrorist groups, as well as other fugitives, wherever they are present and active, an official statement said. Both sides reiterated the need for sharing of real time intelligence and feedback through the designated ‘nodal points’, while appreciating each other’s ongoing action against insurgent groups operating in the region.

The scope of enhanced coordination to combat trans-border criminal activities,

including smuggling of drugs, Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN), arms and ammunition and human trafficking was also discussed, the statement said. While discussing ongoing bilateral cooperation, issues of mutual concern and the way forward, it was decided to further strengthen the relationship of the police forces of the two countries. In view of the limitations imposed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held virtually and in a shorter format.

Both sides, however, emphasised the importance of this new high level mechanism as the dialogue concluded with assurances of greater cooperation on both the sides to address all security challenges in future.

The institution of police chiefs’ dialogue, assisted by members of other security agencies on both sides, will further enhance the existing cooperation between the police forces of both countries, thereby further consolidating a relationship that transcends strategic partnership in this 50th anniversary of the Liberation of Bangladesh, the statement said.

Forthcoming polls in five States: ECI holds talks with Union Home Secy

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Ahead of the upcoming Assembly polls in five States, the Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday held discussions with Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla regarding the requirement of central security forces and related matters to conduct free and fair polls. The meeting was held at Nirvachan Sadan. The terms of the assemblies in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Puducherry and Assam will end on May 24, 2021, June 1, 2021, May 30, 2021, June 8, 2021 and May 31, 2021 respectively.

“The meeting was primarily to discuss requirement vis-à-vis availability of central armed police forces (CAPFs), and related matters, for the upcoming Assembly Elections to the States of Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal, and the Union Territory of Puducherry,” a brief EC statement said.

Top sources said that a team of EC officials had visited poll bound states and discuss the preparations and other mat-



ters with state government officials.” The issue of law and order was prominently discussed in the meeting,” said officials.

Keeping in mind social distancing norms due to coronavirus pandemic, the Commission could increase the number of polling stations in these states to restrict the number of voters per polling station.

In the recently-held Bihar polls, the number of voters per polling station was reduced from 1,200 to 1,000, resulting in creation of additional polling stations.

The poll body has recently issued an advisory saying that no officer connected

directly with election duties should be allowed to continue in the respective district if he/she is posted in her/his home district. The Commission wrote to the chief secretaries and chief electoral officers of these five states regarding the transfer and posting officers associated with conducting the elections.

According to the EC, the decision follows the consistent policy of the Commission that officers directly connected with conduct of elections in poll-bound State/Union Territory are not posted in their home districts or places where they have served for considerably long periods.

NIA files chargesheet against ISKP operative



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA on Tuesday filed a chargesheet before the Special NIA Court here under various Sections of the Indian Penal Code and provisions of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act against Abdur Rahman alias Dr Brave (28) of Bengaluru, Karnataka in connection with an Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) case. Rahman is a qualified doctor and the first such professional to be charged in a terrorist case.

The accused doctor has been chargesheeted for allegedly furthering ideology and activities of proscribed terrorist organisation ISIS/ISKP in connivance with co-accused Jahanzaib Sami and others for committing subversive/anti national activities in India.

Abdur Rahman alias Dr Brave was arrested on August

17, 2020 from Bangalore by NIA.

As a student of MBBS at Bangalore Medical College, Abdur Rahman got radicalised, listening to the online lectures of hard line Islamic preachers including ‘Anwar Awlaki’. Subsequently, he came into contact with other radicalised youth and travelled to Syria in December, 2013 and participated in various terrorist activities of ISIS. After his return to India he continued to remain associated with the ideology of ISIS, the NIA said in a statement.

“Utilising his knowledge of Ophthalmic Lasers and Medical Science, he made efforts to develop applications for medical and military requirements of ISIS. To this end, he was in regular communication with ISIS terrorists located abroad as well as in India including Jahanzaib Sami on Threema, a secure

messaging platform,” it said.

Consequently, he had achieved significant progress towards developing a medical application for treatment of ISIS terrorists and also a Laser Guided Anti-Tank Missile application for controlling the trajectory of the missiles for enhancing their effectiveness for furthering the cause of ISIS, it said, adding further investigation in the case is continuing.

Earlier, a charge-sheet was filed on September 2 last year against five accused persons -- Jahanzaib Sami and Hina Bashir Beigh, resident of Srinagar, Abdullah Basith of Hyderabad, Sadiya Anwar Shaikh and Nabeel Siddick Khatri, both of Pune, under IPC sections Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

This case arose out of Delhi Police Special Cell, FIR number 85/2020 dated March 8, 2020 pertaining to arrest of Jahanzaib Sami Wani and his wife Hina Bashir Beigh from Okhla Vihar, Jamia Nagar here on March 8, 2020 on receiving an input that they were affiliated to the banned terrorist organization ISKP, a part of ISIS, and were planning subversive/anti-national activities in India. The NIA had re-registered the case on March 20 last year and took up the investigation of the case.

India reports lowest single-day jump in Covid infections

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India has reported the lowest single-day jump in coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours since mid-June with 12,584 fresh infections taking the tally to 1,04,79,179, the Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday.

The death toll increased to 1,51,327 with 167 daily new fatalities while the number of people who have recuperated from the disease surged to 1,01,11,294 pushing the national COVID-19 recovery rate to 96.49 percent.

The Covid-19 case fatality rate stands at 1.44 percent with the active caseload remaining below 3 lakh.

There are 2,16,558 active coronavirus infections in the country which comprises 2.07 percent of the total caseload, as per the Ministry.

India’s COVID-19 tally had crossed the 20-lakh mark on August 7, 30 lakh on August 23, 40 lakh on September 5 and 50 lakh on September 16. It went past 60 lakh on September 28, 70 lakh on October 11, crossed 80 lakh on October 29, 90 lakh on November 20 and surpassed the one-crore mark on December 19.

“The country is now 14th among the most affected countries by active cases. India added 12,584 cases, the lowest daily spike since June 17, to take its total caseload to 10,479,179.

IMD issues orange alert amid severe cold wave

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

With temperatures falling, an orange alert was issued by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday for the northern plains with a forecast of a cold wave for the next four days. A similar alert has been sounded for Tamil Nadu and Puducherry with a forecast of heavy rains. The IMD said that the minimum temperature over the north Indian plains is likely to be below normal during this period.

“Due to the prevalence of dry north/northwesterly winds, the minimum temperature is very likely to be below normal over most parts of northwest India during next 4-5 days which are very likely to cause cold day/severe cold day conditions at some parts of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand during next three days.

“Cold wave/severe cold wave conditions at some parts are also very likely over Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi and in isolated parts over Uttar Pradesh, north Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan during next three days,” the IMD said.

Ground frost is also very likely in isolated pockets over south Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and north Rajasthan during the next two days.

The IMD said that dense to very dense fog conditions at isolated places are very likely over northwest India during the next 4-5 days.

Opp parties hail SC decision as it stays implementation of farm laws

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Opposition parties on Tuesday welcomed the Supreme Court’s decision to stay the implementation of the three farm laws, but some of them expressed doubts over the neutrality of the committee formed by the top court to end the impasse over the contentious legislations.

Congress’ chief spokesperson Randeep Surjewala said the party welcomes the Supreme Court’s concern over the farm laws, but the party has issues with the composition of the committee formed by it. He said the members of the committee have already expressed their views in the past favouring the new laws “so the question arises in our minds that how justice will be done to farmers by their hands”.

While staying the laws, the top court set up a four-member committee to resolve the impasse between the Central government and the farmers’ unions protesting at Delhi’s borders over the legislations.

NCP supremo and former Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar also welcomed the Supreme court’s decision to put

on hold the implementation of three farm bills and set up the committee to resolve the issues.

“It is a big relief for farmers and I hope that a concrete dialogue between the Central government and farmers will be initiated now, keeping the farmers interests and wellbeing in mind,” said Pawar.

Last month, Pawar, who was the Union agriculture minister from 2004 to 2014 in the Manmohan Singh government, along with other opposition leaders including Congress’s Rahul Gandhi met President Ram Nath Kovind and sought a repeal of the three farm laws.

Echoing similar views, DMK chief M K Stalin also welcomed the decision of the Supreme Court, saying this is a victory for farmers protesting across India.

“I once again urge the Union government to commit to repealing the farm laws in the next Parliament Session,” he said.

CPI(M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury Tweeted : Can anyone expect the protesting farmers demanding repeal of Agri Laws to talk to such a committee?

Why should they?

Farmers are left with no other option than to boycott this committee?, the left leader mentioned.

Shiv Sena leader and Rajya Sabha member Priyanka Chaturvedi asked “Should not farm laws after SC stay now move to Parliament Standing Committee of Parliamentarians where various stakeholders from farm sector can be heard. “That’s what the constitution mandates. There’s a clear separation of role of judiciary, executive and legislative,” said Chaturvedi. Congress, Shiv Sena and NCP are alliance partners in the Uddhav Thackeray led Maharashtra government.

Senior Congress leader P Chidambaram said the concern expressed by the Supreme Court over the farmers’ protests is “justified and welcome in the situation created by a stubborn Government”.

“The decision to form a Committee to help find a solution is well-intentioned. However, the composition of the four member committee is puzzling and sends contradictory signals,” he said on Twitter.

TEMPORARY STOPPAGE OF TRAINS AT URULI STATION ON THE OCCASION OF MAKAR SANKRANTI

In order to facilitate movement of pilgrims attending Annual Festival during Makar Sankranti at Shri Prayagdharm, Uruli, Railways will provide one minute temporary stoppage for following trains at URULI station as per details given below :-

TEMPORARY STOPPAGE OF TRAINS AT URULI STATION			
Train No. & Name	Arrival/Departure Time	JCO	Period of Halts at URULI
02779 Vasco Da Gama-Hazrat Nizamuddin Special	04.50/04.51	12.01.21 to 23.01.21	13.01.21 to 24.01.21
02780 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Vasco Da Gama Special	16.05/16.06	12.01.21 to 23.01.21	13.01.21 to 24.01.21
02629 Yasvantpur Jn.-Hazrat Nizamuddin Special	09.24/09.25	12.01.21, 14.01.21, 19.01.21 & 21.01.21	13.01.21, 15.01.21, 20.01.21 & 22.01.21
02630 Hazrat Nizamuddin-Yasvantpur Jn. Special	10.04/10.05	13.01.21, 15.01.21, 20.01.21 & 22.01.21	14.01.21, 16.01.21, 21.01.21 & 23.01.21
06523 Yasvantpur Jn.-Hazrat Nizamuddin Special	08.54/08.55	16.01.21	17.01.21

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

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table of stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact Railway Enquiry No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in or NTES App.

Security Helpline No. 182

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seeking to reinvent the age-old Indian tradition of coating houses with cow dung, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has developed Khadi Prakritik Paint, a first-of-its-kind paint in India made from cow dung with eight benefits or Ashta Laabh.

The unique product which is eco-friendly and cost-effective, was launched by Minister for MSME, Nitin Gadakari on Tuesday. Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Giriraj Singh, Minister of State for MSME, Pratap Chandra Sarangi, and KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena were present on the occasion.

While launching the paint, Gadkari said the innovative Khadi Prakritik Paint has the potential of evolving into a ₹6,000 crore market and creating 10 lakh new jobs that will revolutionize the agro-based economy of the country.

“A policy will be framed for sharing the technical knowhow of Khadi Prakritik Paint to maximum people in India. KVIC will provide technical training to new entrepreneurs who could benefit by manufacturing cow dung paint. Thousands of Prakritik paint manufacturing



units can be set up across the country that will give a big boost to local manufacturing and agro-based economy,” Gadkari said.

He said bulk utilisation of cow dung will ensure monetary gains to farmers that will also desist them from selling away cows in the market. “This will put a check on cow slaughtering. We will stop cow slaughtering through the economy and not through the law,” he said.

KVIC Chairman VK Saxena said Khadi Prakritik Paint was not just a product but a tool of accelerating the growth of rural economy in India. “The prime objective of developing cow-dung paint is employment generation which is the basic premise of Khadi. This paint is a reinvention of age-old practices into a scientifically-tested modern product,” Saxena said.

Production of Khadi Prakritik Paint is aligned with

the Prime Minister’s vision of increasing farmers’ income. At the same time, it will create thousands of new jobs in the paint manufacturing sector as KVIC will share the technology and provide training for manufacturing of Prakritik Paint, he added.

At present, Prakritik Paint manufacturing unit at KVIC’s Kumarappa National Handmade Paper Institute in Jaipur, has the daily capacity of producing 500 liters of paint which provides direct employment to 10 people.

Apart from being water-proof and washable, Khadi Prakritik Paint contains the natural benefits of cow dung like anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and natural thermal insulation properties.

This paint is eco-friendly, non-toxic, odorless and cost-effective. Emulsion paint meets BIS 15489:2013 standards; Distemper paint conforms to BIS 428:2013 standards.

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)

No.SSA/MSM/AT/413/2020/3972 Date: 12.01.2021

Mission Director, Axiom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites Expression of Interest (EOI) through e-procurement process from Private/Public limited company or LLP /partnership Agency registered in India with expertise in cloud-based Artificial Intelligence and mobile technologies to Deployment of Artificial Intelligence based Identification System for Capturing Attendance and Management of SDMS across Assam. To participate in this EOI through e-procurement, applicant should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class- II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The applicants who have downloaded the EOI schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 10000/- (Rupees Ten thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axiom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam and payable at Guwahati. The EOI should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

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

Janasanyog /CF/3866/20

PM, Shah to launch Assam poll campaign next week

ArrayGuwahati: As the ruling BJP kicks off its Assembly poll campaign in Assam, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah and other central leaders would hold a series of election rallies in the northeastern state next week, BJP leader and Assam minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Tuesday.

BJP national president JP Nadda, who left here on Tuesday for Delhi, addressed a public gathering in southern Assam's Silchar on Monday and claimed that the saffron party has been winning all the elections in the country from Jammu & Kashmir to Telangana, and it would return to power in Assam once again with 100-plus seats in the upcoming state Assembly polls.

Sarma, who is the conven-er of the BJP-led alliance of regional parties -- North East

Nadda who was on two-day Assam visit held meetings with Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, state BJP President Ranjeet Kumar Dass and other senior leaders in Guwahati on Monday and Tuesday and discussed the strategies for the Assembly polls likely to be held in April-May

Democratic Alliance (NEDA) - said that Prime Minister Modi is likely to visit Assam on January 23 and Home Minister Shah is also likely to address two public rallies at Kokrajhar and Nalbari on January 24. The Prime Minister's detailed programme is yet to be finalised.

Nadda who was on two-day Assam visit held meetings with Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Sarma, state BJP President Ranjeet Kumar Dass and other senior leaders in Guwahati on Monday and Tuesday and dis-

cussed the strategies for the Assembly polls likely to be held in April-May.

Accompanied by his wife Mallika Nadda, the BJP President on Tuesday visited the famous Kamakhya Devalaya in Guwahati on Tuesday and prayed at the famed 'Shakti Peetha' atop the picturesque Nilachal hills in Assam's main city. The 126-member Assam Assembly will go to the polls along with West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

In the last Assembly polls in 2016, the BJP defeated the Congress and formed the government in Assam for the first time winning 60 seats after forging an alliance with the Bodoland People's Front (BPF) and the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP), who won 14 and 12 seats, respectively. The ruling alliance also has the support of an independent MLA. **IANS**

Rajnath Singh visits injured Shripad Naik at Goa hospital

Panaji: Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday met his Defence Ministry colleague MoS Shripad Naik, who has been admitted to a Goa hospital following a road accident in Karnataka late on Monday.

Singh briefly met Naik at the Goa Medical College campus to enquire after his health and to condole the death of the Union MoS's wife Vijaya, before leaving for the national capital."His condition is stable according to doctors. They have said there is no danger. If proper treatment can be provided here, then he will be treated here itself. If need be, he will be shifted to Delhi. Everything will depend on doctors here," Singh told reporters at the hospital campus after he met the team of doctors treating Naik.

Singh also said that doctors at the Goa hospital were in touch with their counterparts at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in the national capital. Singh is also scheduled to visit Naik's private residence at San Pedro near Panaji.

Earlier on Tuesday, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that Naik's condition is "stable" and he's responding well to treatment after two orthopaedic operations in the early hours of Tuesday.

"I have met Bhau (Naik). His condition is stable now. The two orthopaedic surgeries conducted on him were successful," Sawant told reporters

shortly after meeting Naik at the hospital's coronary care unit.

"The operations started around 2.30 a.m. and lasted till around 7 a.m. He is now under sedation. He is responding well to treatment," Sawant said.

Sawant said that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will arrive here later in the day to ask after the health of Naik, who was injured in a road mishap in Karnataka late on Monday.

"We will take a call on whether we need expert opinion. Rajnath Singh will also meet with doctors later today to review Naik's health," Sawant said.

Naik's wife Vijaya and his Personal Secretary Deepak Ghume had succumbed to their injuries, while his driver and a Personal Security Officer are currently admitted at the Goa Medical College near Panaji.

The Chief Minister said that hours after Naik was rushed from the accident site in Yellapur in Karnataka to the Goa Medical College on Monday night, two surgeries were conducted.

Apart from loss of blood and dropping blood pressure, Naik had a broken upper limb and a fractured thigh bone. Late on Monday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also spoke to Sawant and directed him to ensure the best treatment for Naik, a fifth-term MP from North Goa and a former state BJP President. **IANS**

TN to reopen schools for classes 10, 12 from Jan 19

IANS ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K.Palaniswami on Tuesday announced reopening of schools for classes 10 and 12 from January 19.

In a statement issued here, Palaniswami said the schools will be reopened only for classes 10 and 12 and each classroom will have 25 students. He also said in order to boost the immunity levels, the students attending the classes will be given vitamin and zinc tablets.

The Chief Minister said the government's decision comes after 95 per cent of the parents had expressed in favour of reopening of the schools.

The parent's views were taken on 8 and 9 of this month by the respective schools and a report was submitted to the government.

Four bus passengers electrocuted in Tamil Nadu

Chennai: At least four passengers, including a woman, were electrocuted while 10 others received injuries after their bus came in contact with a power transmission line in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district, police said on Tuesday.

According to the police, the private bus carrying about 50 passengers fell into a pit while overtaking a lorry and came in contact with the live power cable at Varagur village. The injured have been admitted to a nearby hospital. **IANS**

AIADMK, AMMK in patch up mode ahead of TN polls

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

As the countdown for the Assembly election began in Tamil Nadu, the ruling AIADMK and the Opposition DMK have adopted a defensive posture to ward off any possible erosion of votes in the coming days. The aggressive postures of both the parties have given way to sense of caution.

A possible patch up between the AIADMK and the breakaway Amma Makkal Munnetra Kazhagam (AMMK) launched by TTV Dinakaran have gained momentum by Friday following a derogatory statement made by Udhayanidhi Stalin, son of DMK president M K Stalin.

While addressing an elec-

tion rally, Udhayanidhi made vulgar comments about Chief Minister

Edappadi Palaniswamy and V K Sasikala, the jailed aide to late J Jayalalithaa. Though mainstream media did not report the same, the video of Udhayanidhi's speech went viral in the social media.

The Chennai Police on Monday registered cases against Udhayanidhi under various sections of the IPC, Information Technology Act and Tamil Nadu Prohibition of Women Harassment Act.

Activists of the DMK, who belong to the Thevar community too took strong objection to the words of Udhayanidhi and a prominent community member has posted a social media message against the scion of the Karunanidhi fam-

ily. Senior AIADMK leaders, who did not want to be named, said that efforts were on to patch up with the Sasikala faction. Sasikala is expected to be released from jail on January 27, her lawyer S Pandian had disclosed recently.

There are reports that Dhinakaran who is heading the AMMK have started talks with AIADMK leaders at the instance of common friends and well wishers. "This possibility could not be ruled out. There is a feeling among both the factions that they should fight the election together," said Kolahala Srenivaasan, author and political commen-tator.

Stalin, who was holding Gram Sabhas across the villages in Tamil Nadu had to put such interactions on hold after a woman created a ruckus in one

of the meetings held in Coimbatore district. Poongodi, reportedly an activist of the AIADMK, asked questions which irritated the DMK chief who asked her to go out of the meeting. The woman was beaten up by the DMK cadre and police had to intervene to save her.

The possibility of the DMK forging an alliance with Asaduddin Owaisi MP and president of the AIMIM looks bleak as the latter felt humiliated by Stalin's action of inviting him for the January 6 public meeting and later asking him to stay off.

Talks are going on between Kamal Haassan's MNM and Owaisi to forge a third front in the State. There is a likelihood of Thirumavalavan of the VCK, who pleads with Dalits to get

converted to Islam, to join the Kamal-Owaisi front if the DMK refuses to allocate the number of seats which the former had demanded.

Mani Shankar Iyer, Congress leader had said on Sunday that his party would accept whatever seats are allocated to it by the DMK. "It would be unrealistic for us to expect more seats than we got last time," said Iyer at a time when other alliance partners like the VCK, MDMK and the Islamic outfits are pressurizing the DMK for more seats.

The BJP made it known on Monday that Edappadi Palaniswamy would be the chief ministerial candidate of the AIADMK and the Hindutwa party would extend full support to him. This was stated by BJP's Tamil Nadu observer C T Ravi.



ISKCON followers participate in a religious procession during the annual Magh Mela festival in Prayagraj on Tuesday PTI

Statue of Unity received more visitors than Taj Mahal: Guj CM

Gandhinagar: While unveiling the new Tourism Policy 2021-25, Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani on Tuesday said the Statue of Unity (SoU) at Kevadiya received more visitors than the Taj Mahal in Agra.

The new policy aims to develop specific areas in the state. Similar to the concept in the West, the government also wants to develop caravan and beach tourism like in Goa.

Addressing the media, the Gujarat CM said, "We want to boost the service sector industry by developing the tourism infrastructure in the state. In the latest tourism policy we have stressed more on developing specific focused areas like we have developed the SoU site at Kevadiya. The SoU has received overwhelming response from tourists as it receives more visitors than the famous Taj Mahal."

The state government will be giving incentives to tourism development projects in focused areas.

In the new policy, a provision has been made for a minimum Rs 1 crore investment and 20 per cent incentive for it, though there is no limit on maximum investment. In the previous tourism policy, there was a cap of Rs 50 crore investment and 15 per cent subsidy on investment in new hotels, resorts, amusement parks, theme parks and water parks. "If the investment is more than Rs 500 crore, we will give 20 per cent incentive on that," Rupani added.

The new policy also wants to incentivise amusement parks, water parks and theme parks where Rs 50 crore would be considered the minimum investment and 15 per cent subsidy would be given for investment in the range of Rs 50 crore to Rs 500 crore.

The state government wants to push projects yielding large investments and for that amusement park projects with more than Rs 500 crore investment would be given land on lease on top of the 15 per cent subsidy. The 15 per cent subsidy would also be given to resorts and the National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) accredited wellness resorts.

The Gujarat government wants to have large convention halls in the state. "We want more convention centres with capacity as much as 5,000 or 10,000." "We will be giving incentives to convention centres with minimum 2,500 sitting capacity where 15 per cent incentive on investment will be given," Rupani added.

"We want to start caravan tourism in Gujarat where tourists can form caravans and travel across the state. The government will offer 15 per cent subsidy on Rs 10 lakh investment in the caravan tourism industry," said Rupani. According to the policy, in tented accommodation in specific focused areas, investment worth more than Rs 50 lakh would be given 15 per cent incentive. **IANS**

With 9.63 lakh doses, Maha all set to launch Covid vaccination drive

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Having received 9,63,000 doses of the Covid-19 vaccine vials, Maharashtra on Tuesday geared itself to administer the vaccine to the people across the state in the first phase of vaccination, even as the Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) sent out the first batch of Covid-19 vaccine vials to 13 locations across the country.Of a total of 14.50 tonnes of vaccine vials it dispatched to various locations across the country on Tuesday, the SII has made available 9.63 lakh doses to the state health authorities.

Talking to media persons here, Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope said: "We will distribute the vaccine vials district-wise as per the instructions received from the Corona Vaccination Experts Group set up by the Centre. The vaccination drive will be undertaken at 511 locations in 36 districts in the state."

"As many as 784,000 health

workers have so far registered themselves on the state's Covid-19 portal. The process of registration will continue till midnight of Tuesday-Wednesday," State Principal Secretary (Health) Pradip Vyas said.

Vyas said that apart from 7.48 lakh people who had registered themselves on the state's Covid-19 portal, another 17,749 vaccinators had also registered for the vaccination drive. Tope said that as part the drive, his ministry had identified nine priority groups for the vaccination, including health care and frontline workers comprising all government and private health institutions, Asha, Anganwadi, central police forces, armed forces, home guard and municipal workers

According to Tope, the third group comprised all people above 50 years of age and those below 50 year with co-morbidities.

"Each centre will vaccinate at least 100 people and all arrangements have been made for the vaccination



Pune-based Serum Institute of India (SII) CEO-owner Adar Poonawalla poses for a group photograph with hundreds of his employees, as three Kool-Ex Cold Chain trucks, carrying 14.50 tonnes of Covid-19 vaccine vials, prepare to head towards the Pune International Airport for onward dispatch to 13 locations across India on Tuesday

teams comprising 5 members each at all locations," Tope said.

The state government has set up cold chain centres set up across the state. These include 34 at various districts and 27 in various municipalities, 4 Walkin Freezers, 21 Walkin Coolers, 3,937 Deep Freezers, and

4,153 ILRs. The Walkin coolers have come up at Thane, Pune, Nashik, Aurangabad, Kolhapur, Latur, Akola and Nagpur.

The Centre has sent 1,200 Vaccine Carriers which have already been dispatched to the districts and municipal corporations.

Don't feed migratory birds: Announcements in Varanasi

Varanasi: The district administration in Varanasi has banned feeding of migratory birds in the Ganga river and along the Ghats.

Public announcements are being made on the Ghats, asking people not to feed the birds in view of the bird flu scare.

Migratory birds arrive in large numbers in Varanasi during the win-

Migratory birds arrive in large numbers in Varanasi during the winter season and tourists go on boats and feed these birds

ter season and tourists go on boats and feed these birds.

Chief veterinary officer Dr Vijay Pratap Singh said that these migrato-

ry birds stay in Varanasi for almost four months and are a major tourist attraction. "In view of the bird flu scare, we are asking humans to stay away from birds. Public announcements to this effect are being made and the river police is also warning boat riders. The boatmen have also been adequately informed of the danger," he said. **IANS**

Raj Housing Board Commissioner holds meeting with AIS Residency Society officials

Jaipur: A meeting was held on Monday under the chairmanship of Housing Commissioner Pawan Arora along with the officials of All India Services Residency Society. At the meeting, officials gave suggestions in relation to the Servent Room, Kitchen, Club House, which the Commissioner, while adopting a positive attitude, convinced them to consider their suggestions.

The All India Services Residency proposed in Pratap Nagar Sector 17 was accepted by the Olympic Board till 31 December 2020. 159 officers have applied for the scheme. All India in Pratap Nagar Sector 17 of Jaipur by Rajasthan Housing Board Officers serving in All India Services of Services and Central Civil Services (Group-A Services) in



Rajasthan, Officers of All India Services and National Civil Services (Group-A Services) serving in Rajasthan's basic resident or other states/cadre, based in Rajasthan Central Armed Services "AIS Residency" Residential Plan for Officers of Central Armed Police Force and Officers of Rajasthan Administrative Service, Rajasthan Police Service, and Rajasthan Accounts Service, Officers of Police Force, Rajasthan resident and other states/cadre Has been. Along with this the scheme also includes those officers who are residents of other states but residing in Rajasthan but are now retired.

UP doctor detained for treating injured criminals

Lucknow: The Lucknow police have detained a doctor from Sultanpur in connection with the murder of history-sheeteer Ajit Singh.

One of the accused Rehan, who was arrested on Sunday, had revealed the names of Dr. A.K. Singh and another one Vishal Singh of Sultanpur.

The police also traced WhatsApp chats between Vishal and an eastern Uttar Pradesh don-turned-politician.

The shooters were injured on the night of January 6 when they sprayed bullets on another history-sheeteer Ajit Singh, in the Gomti Nagar area of Lucknow They were first taken to a flat by Rehan and Vishal Singh and a private doctor was called in to treat them.

"On January 7 morning, the duo was taken to the private facility of Dr. A.K. Singh in the red-coloured SUV by Vishal," said a senior police official.

The official said that Vishal stayed in a flat in Gomti Nagar extension, registered in the name of the eastern Uttar Pradesh don-turned-politician.

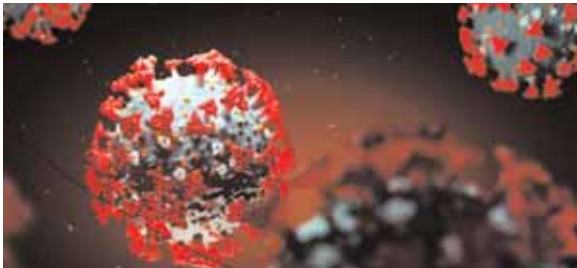
As per the plan, Vishal was to take the shooters out of Uttar Pradesh.However, the plan got upset after the alleged shooters, Girdhari Sharma and Pradeep Singh Kabutra got injured, the police said.

The injured shooters were admitted under fake names to conceal their identities till the treatment on January 10, police said.

Later, they were taken in a maroon-coloured car and dropped in Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh. "We have checked the entire conversation and also seized Vishal's mobile phone," the police officer said.

The police are now questioning the doctor about his links with the shooters and the eastern Uttar Pradesh don. **IANS**

5,507 new corona cases in Kerala



IANS ■ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

As many as 5,507 more persons tested coronavirus positive and another 4,270 patients cured in Kerala on Tuesday, Health Minister KK Shailaja's office said.

The state's test positivity rate on Tuesday stood at 8.52 per cent. A total of 25 fatalities on Tuesday took the COVID-19 death toll to 3,347.

In all, 64,556 persons are under treatment across the state. Ernakulam district had the highest 813 new cases and Kasargod lowest 58 cases.

Of the positive cases, 53 have come from outside the state. In all, 4,952 persons tested positive through contacts while the source of infection in 433 others is not known.

A total of 69 health workers tested positive on Tuesday, including 22 in Pathanamthitta, 10 in Ernakulam, nine in Kozhikode, eight in Kannur, seven in Thrissur, four in Palakkad, two each in Thiruvananthapuram, Wayanad and Kasargod, and one each in Kollam, Alappuzha and Kottayam.

गाजियाबाद विकास प्राधिकरण
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विकास पथ, गाजियाबाद

सार्वजनिक सूचना

इन्दिरापुरम योजना के अन्तर्गत खण्ड-3 में स्थित प्राधिकरण के स्वामित्व की ग्रीन बेल्ट की भूमि को कूड़ा डंपिंग ग्राउन्ड में मू-उपयोग परिवर्तन की कार्यवाही की जा रही है। उक्त के अन्तर्गत 9.25 x 8.25 वर्गमी0 क्षेत्रफल का मू उपयोग ग्रीन बेल्ट से परिवर्तित कर डंपिंग ग्राउन्ड किया जाना प्रस्तावित है, जिस हेतु उ0न0 नगर योजना एवं विकास अधिनियम-1973 की धारा-13 (1) के अन्तर्गत आपत्ति एवं सुझाव आमंत्रित किये जा रहे हैं। यदि उक्त कार्यवाही पर किसी भी व्यक्ति को कोई आपत्ति है तो वे अपनी लिखित आपत्ति दो प्रतियों में विज्ञप्ति प्रकाशन से एक माह की अवधि में किसी भी कार्यदिवस पर मुख्य अभियंता, गाजियाबाद विकास प्राधिकरण के कार्यालय में प्राप्त करा सकते हैं। निर्धारित समय सीमा के उपरान्त कोई भी आपत्ति मान्य नहीं होगी।

उपाध्यक्ष

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एक सुन्दर शहर..... हमारा संकल्प

New Okhla Industrial Development Authority
Administrative Building, Sector-6, Noida G.B Nagar, (U.P.)
Website: www.noidaauthorityonline.com

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(1)	28/SPE/PE (PH-II)/ET/2021-21	Cleaning of Toilet of Medicine Park, Biodiversity Park Sec-91, Shahid Bhagat Singh Park Sec-150, Express view Park Sec-93, Noida	Rs. 2394243.84
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The above tenders can be uploaded by dated **27/01/2021** upto **5.00 PM**. Pre-Qualification shall be opened / downloaded on dated **28/01/2021 at 11.00 AM**.

(S. C. Mishra)
Sr. Project Engineer (Punlic Health), Noida

CLEAN, GREEN, SAFE & SECURE NOIDA

It's farmers now

SC moots panel of agri experts, asks protesters to forward names. Farmers should give court mediation a chance



The Supreme Court may have been disappointed with the Government for abandoning its negotiation skills to resolve the farm laws crisis and showed its actionable intent by setting up an expert committee but the question remains: Is this mediatory framework agreeable to farmers, who consider it another diversionary tactic through the judicial route? The court, though, by insisting on “fair play”, seeking suggestions on agri experts — including those whom the protesters are comfortable with — and assuring them that “nobody’s land will be sold” has now lobbed the ball in the farmers’ court; especially by highlighting the difference “between politics and judiciary” and asking them to make a moral choice. The farmers, who have anyway signed up for the long haul, should, therefore, give this court-mediated exercise a chance. The court would present them with a serious forum to voice their concerns, something that got drowned in Parliament as the Government steamrolled the Bills. This is their opportunity to publicise their arguments against the much-feared corporatisation of agriculture. One cannot disregard the fears of farmers as they cite how corporatisation of agriculture in the US, where factory farming gave birth to an uninterrupted chain of “farm to fork”, has wiped out rural communities, their organic methods, their unique produce and their relevance. It all began in the 1970s with the dream of becoming big enough to command the world’s food market with industrialised processes, merging of lands and shifting priorities to commodity crops. But in no time there was a glut due to over-production; farmers could never get the commensurate prices and were driven to debts. They had no option but to foreclose and sell out. Luckily, our contentious clauses are confined to certain provisions, which can be worked out if there is political will.

While the Government insists that the new laws will help create “one nation, one market” and remove trade barriers, the farmers fear that in an open, competitive market, they would not get the minimum support price (MSP) that the Government promised to continue. Besides, they feel that entering into contracts with corporations would willy-nilly give the latter greater control over them. And, that although the older system would continue as a weakened parallel mechanism, it would ultimately crumble before emerging monopolies. For example, the Farmers’ Produce Trade and Commerce (Promotion and Facilitation) Act, 2020, allows buys and sales outside the notified Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) *mandis*, thereby limiting their cartelisation tendencies. It also prohibits the State Governments from collecting any market fee, cess or levy for trade outside the APMC markets. The farmers want clarity on what “outside” means and, contrary to perception that they want the middlemen out, they actually have a trusted bond with their existing commission agents as their licence is proof enough of their credibility and delivery abilities. The Government, after several rounds of talks, had agreed to certify and define buyers. As for contract farming, at the moment it is undertaken with regard to specific crops, particularly those of processing grades or those that are tailor-made for the food majors. As for the sale and purchase of farm produce outside the premises of APMC *mandis*, the use of the word “trade” for agricultural produce can be made conditional on farmers selling their produce first on their terms directly or to the *mandis* and the trader taking off from there. Finally, the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Bill, 2020, aims to remove cereals, pulses, oilseeds, edible oils, onion and potatoes from a regulated list, except in emergencies. But considering that stock limits apply only to traders, the farmers are not affected directly. In such cases, farmers can be incentivised with cash transfers.

Hate, in vogue?

US citizens already divided by Trump have a new issue to bicker over. V-P Kamala Harris’ cover photo in *Vogue*



When Kamala Harris’ team agreed to do a cover story with *Vogue*, little did the US Vice President-elect or the magazine itself imagine that they would be raising a controversial storm and making a splash for all the wrong reasons. However, that is exactly what happened and now both sides are making counter-accusations about *Vogue*’s February issue. The trouble began when the magazine tweeted two photographs of Harris. The one on the cover shows Harris wearing her trademark Converse sneakers, standing in front of a pink and green drape. The other shows her in a powder blue suit, her arms crossed in front of a golden background. While the second photograph — which shows her looking confidently into the camera — has been appreciated for the sense of glamour and power it exudes, the first image came in for a lot of flak from the netizens, Twitterati, activists and the media alike for the fact that it was a badly clicked photograph that made Harris look washed out. It invited comments like: “I’ll shoot shots of VP Kamala Harris for free using my Samsung and I’m 100 per cent confident it’ll turn out better than this *Vogue* cover.” Some also pointed out that Harris, who is quite proud of being coloured, appears whiter in the picture than she actually is. Which is understandably offensive given that Harris will be the first Black woman and the first woman of Indian heritage to occupy the office of the Vice-President of the US. Any other time in the history of America, this image might have slipped under the radar of a nation that has, under US President Donald Trump, become highly polarised on racial lines. Consequently, as Harris enters the White House, she and President-elect Joe Biden will have to address a major threat to the nation’s unity as hate crimes are on the rise and White supremacists and other domestic extremists have been emboldened by the outgoing President.

But with the ‘Black Lives Matter’ movement, the race riots and the attack on the Capitol Hill by Trump’s White supremacist supporters so fresh in people’s memory, this “whitewashing” of a coloured woman by *Vogue* has not gone down well with a section of the people. Little does it matter that Tyler Mitchell, the person who did the cover shoot, is Black, just like the editor, Gabriella Karefa-Johnson, and writer of the piece, Alexis Okeowo. America is sitting on a tinderbox of overcharged emotions and anything can spark a racial storm. Plus, the fact that *Vogue*’s iconic veteran editor Anna Wintour has time and again courted controversy for being openly racist did not help matters. In fact, so sharp are the divisions in the world’s most respected fashion magazine that Tyler Mitchell actually made history as late as 2018 for being the first Black photographer to shoot a *Vogue* cover. So, it is no wonder then that the choice of the cover has raised hackles because it is being seen as an attempt by the editorial team at *Vogue*, under Wintour’s tutelage of course, to undermine the authority of a powerful coloured woman who has worked her way to the second-highest seat of power in the US and made history as the first woman to become the Vice-President of the US. Now, with the accusations of Harris’ team being “blindsided” by the magazine and counter-accusations by *Vogue* of the team agreeing to the pics that appeared on the cover, flowing thick and fast, one cannot help but wonder if this will be the face of things to come. No matter how much the Biden-Harris team tries to douse the flames of hate that have been fanned by the Trump Administration, peace and tranquility in the United States of America, which has of late become more divided than united, will be a long time coming.

Ab ki baar Trump sarkaar?

The PM may have distanced himself from Trump following the Capitol attack but we have recently seen many examples of violence in India, too



AJOY KUMAR

As a doctor, one of the fundamental things you are taught in the medical college — and, frankly, a lot earlier — is the difference between the symptom and the disease and the importance in tackling the disease rather than just the symptom. A fever, for instance, is a good example of the symptom that is common to a number of illnesses, such as various types of flu as well as different types of infections. However, a paracetamol or Crocin cannot cure such illnesses, though such medicines may prove effective in containing the fever briefly. The ill-informed may be led to believe that the disease is cured but, in reality, the disease is alive and kicking and, without proper care and attention, the symptoms (including the fever) would also return.

In today’s time and age, we are battling and struggling with a disease that has turned our world upside down: A virus that has literally brought the world to a standstill and whose inertia we are still trying to break away from. The COVID-19 crisis has gripped the entire world but afflictions like fake news, propaganda and conspiracy theories that endanger our fundamental understanding of democracy are possibly where the true threat to humanity lies. The most recent example of this harm that these diseases can cause is when violent mobs stormed the Capitol (which is the American equivalent of our Parliament) on the back of calls from outgoing President Donald Trump and other politicians and commentators from the Right wing to stop the transition of power in the United States of America. While Trump and these leaders did attempt to distance themselves from the violence and said that they never intended any violence to take place, it is hard to argue that by stirring emotions and by acting contrary to the fundamental principles of a democracy, the President and his supporters (both in the media and in politics) do not have blood on their hands.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi distanced himself from his good friend, Trump, by tweeting against the attack. However, what should pain Modi more than the unceremonious exit of his dear friend from the office is the fact that India too has, unfortunately, not been immune to the disease of unsubstantiated propaganda, and provoked — or, at the very



least, inspired — violence. And after the Emergency of 1975, the most severe impact of these illnesses has been seen in his tenure as the Prime Minister. Therefore, while the attack on the Capitol was shocking, we have seen just as many disturbing examples of violence recently in our very own country.

In the attack on the students of the Jawaharlal Nehru University, for example, we saw a mob enter the campus of a major university and beat up and threaten students and teachers alike. While reports show that there are video clips and reasonable evidence of the prime actors of this violence being from the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the Right-wing student organisation affiliated to the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), there has been no substantial action against the instigators, including those who are clearly seen on camera.

We have also seen several of the Union Ministers raise a rallying cry on the election trail in New Delhi, raising slogans of “*Desh ke gaddaaron ko...*” with the faceless crowd responding with chants of “*...goli maaron saalon ko*”. Similarly, during the protests against the BJP’s Citizenship Amendment Act, we had another shocking incident where a man fired at least two shots from a distance of 50 metres from the stage of the protest. In a video captured by eyewitnesses, the man can be seen brandishing his gun and shouting: “*Hamaare desh mein kisi ki nahi chalegi, sirf Hinduon*

MUCH LIKE THE MOB IN THE US, AFTER BEING FED HOURS AND HOURS OF LIES AND FAKE NEWS, WE, TOO, HAVE SEEN MOBS IN INDIA THAT ARE FED STREAMS OF FAKE NEWS TILL THEY ARE STIRRED INTO A VIOLENT FRENZY

ki chalegi (No one except Hindus will have their way in our country).” The man was subsequently identified as Kapil Gurjar and this same man was a few months later inducted into the BJP at a public function. At the ceremony, which took place in Ghaziabad, the district convener of the BJP inducted him into the party with the words: “Kapil Gurjar has joined with hundreds of supporters. He has influence and support base in the area. He has been impressed by the party’s policies, the work being done by Prime Minister Narendra Modi *ji* and UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath *ji*.” While one does not expect such honesty from politicians, the BJP at least removed him from the party and cancelled his membership in the face of the serious backlash that followed.

Similarly, in a shocking case of mob violence in Bulandshahr, a police inspector, SK Singh, was shot and killed by a violent mob over an alleged incident of cow slaughter. According to reports, those named in the charge sheet for Singh’s murder include Bajrang Dal’s local convener Yogesh Raj and the BJP’s youth wing leader Shikhar Agarwal. Other than this, we also saw the horrific abuse of power in Hathras where the UP Police claimed that there was no evidence of rape but the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has subsequently filed a charge sheet against four men accused of the gang rape and murder of a 19-year-old Dalit woman.

The above instances are

horrific examples of violence and show a clear disregard for the fundamental principles of an effective democracy. However, these acts of violence and disorder only catch our attention when they reach a terrifying crescendo. Much like how the mob in the United States (US), after being fed hours and hours of lies and fake news, was convinced that they were participating in an act of legitimate defiance; so have we too seen mobs in India that are fed streams of fake news and falsehoods through social media and through “legitimate” news outlets till the point that they are stirred into a violent frenzy. It is here where the BJP and the Prime Minister have been found woefully wanting. While the Prime Minister may not himself be making such inflammatory statements, his acceptance and silence around the conduct of those he has direct control over and those who regularly engage in such malpractices speaks volumes. While Modi has tried to distance himself from Trump and his horrific legacy, he has much to do to address and fix his party’s own legacy in the country. In the words of Voltaire, “Those who can make you believe absurdities, can make you commit atrocities”, and by allowing such people to face no consequence for their action, Modi is leaving his own legacy which has just as many black marks as the man who called him “a great friend”.

(The author is a former IPS officer and member of the Congress party. The views expressed are personal.)

SOUND BITE

The Government’s efforts to confuse farmers are futile; the farmers know the motive and their demands are clear—withdraw anti-agri laws.



Congress leader
Rahul Gandhi

With smart policies and the right investments, we can chart a path that brings health to all, revives economies, builds resilience and rescues biodiversity.



UN Secretary-General
Antonio Guterres

I had an amazing experience in India and I definitely want to come back and work more in India with Indian actors. I don’t know what I’m doing next.



Hollywood filmmaker
Christopher Nolan

I’d like to say sorry to Siraj and the Indian team as racism and abuse are not in any way acceptable or tolerable anywhere at any time.



Australian cricketer
David Warner

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More power to women

Sir — Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan battling for raising the legal age of marriage for women from 18 to 21 years is indeed a welcome step which will give more power to women. All States should raise the legal age of marriage for women. If the legal age of marriage for boys is 21 years, why can’t it be the same for girls?

Due to marriage at an early age, girls are often forced by circumstances to put a break to their careers and studies and do only household chores. In such a situation, women are not able to pursue the career of their choice and fulfil their aspirations. Further, marriage at an early age also has an adverse effect on their mental and physical health.

Girls and women should not be scared and must come forth to report the crimes and violence against them. Further, it is the responsibility of their parents and the society to create an atmosphere in which girls do not hesitate or feel shy of sharing their problems. The country will not be empowered in the true sense unless its women are.

Amit Singh Kushwaha
Satna

Govt is responsible for grim economic situation

Even though our economy has experienced many slow-downs and shocks since Independence, the current contraction in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is unprecedented and presents a grim picture. The consumer sentiment is still weak though the economy has been reopened. Both the COVID-19 pandemic and incompetency of the Centre are responsible for the sad state of our economy.

However, the policy response to the pandemic in terms of strict and sudden lockdown has much to do with the magnitude of this contraction of GDP. A more demand-generating policy stimulus would have kept the contraction a little more in check and GDP figures would not have been so dismal.

It is pertinent to note that the Centre’s budgetary proposals are based on the estimated nominal GDP and hence the Finance Minister will have a difficult task fixing fiscal strategies and budgetary schemes on February 1 when the new proposals are placed before Parliament for the fiscal year 2021-22. Further, the financial sector is in a mess and unemployment figures are high. Some industries are on the verge of collapse

SC and farm laws

Sir — An end to the farmers’ agitation is nowhere in sight. The Supreme Court should have concerned itself about the question of the constitutionality of the farm laws.

What is really worrisome, though, is the precedent the top court is setting for various inter-

est groups for future debates over the contentious laws. By allowing for an extra-parliamentary method to settle debate over laws, the court is not only undermining the legislative but also the nation’s faith in representative democracy. It is telling the masses that the way to arm-twist the Government on laws that affect their interest is to generate



and food insecurity looms large. There is a lot of confusion with regard to the schemes that were announced earlier. The Government must take urgent steps and measures to rescue the nation from the current economic crisis. Not only combating COVID-19 but also improving the state of economy should be the priority. The Finance Minister has a very tough task ahead.

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai

enough heft to lay siege to the Capital and the Parliament House.

It is hard to see how the court-appointed panel can come up with an amicable solution. If the eventual solution is not agreeable to the farmers, it will be back to square one.

N Sadhasiva Reddy
Bengaluru

Punish racist bigots

Sir — Racism has again raised its ugly head, this time at the Sydney Cricket Ground. The recent racial abuse of two cricketers is definitely a blot on international sports. It has to be condemned by one and all.

It is appalling that such things are happening when most part of the international cricket has been lost in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even though matches are being played of late, there is little spectator capacity.

The time has come for the ICC to treat racial abuse as a serious issue and take stern action against the offenders. It must ban the offenders from entering stadiums for a fixed period. During the IPL games in India, cricketers from different parts of the world are greeted and treated equally. Everyone should realise that colour, caste, gender and religion in no way decide the behaviour, skill, happiness, opportunities and success of a person.

V Nagendra Kumar
Hyderabad

Send your feedback to:
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FIRST COLUMN

Preserve medical knowledge

It is important to make optimum use of cloud storage to preserve information on specimens and procedures, which can help save lives in the future



We are living in fascinating times where we are discovering new things in the medical field every single day. This is all thanks to the major technological strides that we have taken. For instance, take the COVID-19 virus. Ever since its emergence in 2020, we have been discovering a new fact about it daily. This is all due to the technological advancements that mankind has made in the field of medical science, especially in the branch of surgery.

It is important for future surgeons and healthcare professionals in the country to understand the history of various procedures and build on it further. However, not all progress in the medical field is documented in the right way. Therefore, there is a need for earnest attempts towards utilising latest technological processes, preserving and imparting knowledge for medical posterity worldwide.

In this era of knowledge exchange through the internet, it is important to make optimum use of cloud storage to preserve information on specimens and procedures, which can help save many lives in the future. Although Nalanda was one of the first universities in the world, the knowledge gathered through various studies at that time could not be preserved for perpetuity. This was a big loss for mankind.

Hence, in order to ensure continuity and development in medical science, the first thing that needs to be done is digitisation of case files and procedures. Although a lot of hospitals and healthcare organisations have digitised their patient files and stored them server-backed medical record systems, it is important for smaller establishments to do that as well.

Live surgeries can be captured through body cameras or CCTV cameras. In addition, it is imperative to store these files properly on a secure cloud server since there is a chance that hard disks and drives can be corrupted, stolen or tampered with. Given the fact that they contain confidential data about patients which could be misused if they fall into the wrong hands, it is vital to protect these files and maintain security.

Second, there is a dire need for us to get insights from the data we have and use it for treatment, surgeries and research and development. Data are available in abundance, but we need to use the right set of tools such as Big Data and analytics to draw insights from the information given and create an impact. Analytics can be used in predicting the pattern in certain medical conditions and how it can be treated. For example, if we take all the cases of bypass surgeries conducted so far (in the last few decades) in a particular age group and find a common pattern, it would be extremely useful for the future.

Similarly, 3D printing and 3D modeling are very important innovations for training doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals. 3D printing, or additive manufacturing is a process in which a three dimensional object is created by laying down successive layers of material, all of which are thinly sliced sections of the proposed object. Then the said object is designed on the computer using a Computer-Aided Designing Software and made suitable for 3D printing requirements. Since it is not possible to have actual models/cadavers every time to train medical students (especially in the COVID-era) where the intricacies of each organ can be explored, having 3-D models with movable parts will be very useful for mock surgery training.

Another significant step for future training of surgeons and healthcare professionals is making knowledge accessible. This means the information should be available across mediums and platforms for everyone alike, without any bias. We must not put monetary caps and restrict the free flow of knowledge. Instead, we should aim at creating virtual knowledge hubs, specialised in each field of medicine and surgery. World-renowned experts can be a part of this panel and help aspiring professionals with guidance from time to time.

Nalanda University was one of the first universities in the world, founded in 5th century BC, and was reported to have been visited by the Lord Buddha during his lifetime. At its peak, in the 7th century AD, Nalanda hosted some 10,000 students and 2,000 teachers when it was visited by the Chinese scholar Xuanzang. It had multiple specialties including arts, science and medicine. But all the knowledge was lost due to the lack of the technology needed to preserve that know-how.

It is important to connect ancient wisdom with modern science. These efforts will result in transmission and retrieval of data to educate the future generations, thus preventing another knowledge massacre. Fortunately, we are in a position to preserve knowledge now.

(The writer is a Padma Shri awardee and cardiothoracic surgeon credited with India's first bypass. He is Chairman and CEO of Frontier Lifeline Hospital. The views expressed are personal.)

IS BEING A LEFT SYMPATHISER A CRITERION TO GET A PERMANENT GOVERNMENT JOB? THIS GOVERNMENT IS MIRED IN CORRUPTION FROM NECK TO TOE.

—KERALA LEADER OF OPPOSITION
RAMESH CHENNITHALA



THE MINISTER HAS ALREADY SAID THAT NO GOVERNMENT JOBS OR POSTINGS IN KERALA ARE BASED ON CASTE, CREED, COLOUR OR POLITICS.

—KERALA CHIEF MINISTER
PINARAYI VIJAYAN

Embrace the change

Blockchain technology is finding its relevance across trade and supply chains. Although it may not be the solution for every business objective, it has the power to change other industries, too



Blockchain is one of the latest technologies used in the business world. Though this technology was around since 1990s, it started gaining popularity in the last decade, with the advent of cryptocurrencies. Although it is fast gaining attention, its applicability to business needs to be comprehensively understood and its potential is still to be realised fully. The world is in the early stages of acceptance, testing and implementation of blockchain technology and there is still some time before it hits the mainstream. Blockchain is a type of database where data is stored in blocks which are chained together. Any new data is entered into a fresh block which is then chained to the existing data in a chronological order. Therefore, it differs structurally from any of the existing databases where the data is structured as tables and which is accessed either by an individual or a group of people. Although accessibility is easier, since data sets are owned and managed by businesses, they have control over statistics and they can be changed and manipulated to suit the firm's requirements. This loophole is addressed in the blockchain technology and since information is stored in blocks, it becomes permanent once it is entered and remains part of a timeline, chained to other blocks of data having a precise time-stamp.

There are four aspects of this unique technology. First, consensus of all the relevant users is taken and the information is updated only after the transaction is validated by all of them. Second, any transaction once approved, automatically gets created across ledgers for all the users. Permanency of records, or immutability, is the third aspect. Once the blocks are added, they cannot be removed. Fourth and the main aspect of blockchain technology is security, as only authorised users can create and access blocks of data. Although blockchain technology is mainly associated with cryptocurrency such as bitcoins, once the extent of its applicability is understood properly, it has the potential to transform how businesses operate and can develop exciting value propositions when different businesses work together as an ecosystem. New processes can be developed opening up fresh avenues to make merchandising more competitive. Blockchain technology can help businesses do some social good along with their regular activity. One of the fields where this new technology finds its application is in the food industry. The journey of food from farm to fork can be tracked using it. For instance, in 2006, the US had an outbreak of escherichia coli, particularly in spinach. It took the Government about two weeks to find the source of the bacteria and, in the meanwhile, tons of spinach was discarded due to the fear of the vegetable being contaminated.

Blockchain technology has enabled transparency in the supply chain, across different companies and their ecosystems, to precisely locate the origin of contamination. Several large companies like Walmart, Nestle and Unilever are using this technology to have more control on the quality of raw materials.

In one of the experiments conducted by Walmart, it was able to trace the origin of sliced mangoes back to the farm in 2.2 seconds using the enterprise blockchain platform. Earlier, such an activity using traditional methods to

“ IN THE PRESENT AGE, DATA HAS A VERY SPECIAL PLACE AND PROTECTING PRIVACY IS ANOTHER IMPORTANT APPLICATION OF BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY. IMPORTANT INFORMATION LIKE USER IDENTITY, PASSWORDS, ADDRESS, PERMANENT ACCOUNT NUMBER, BANK DETAILS AND SO ON, ARE SPREAD ACROSS THE INTERNET, LEAVING US VULNERABLE TO DATA THEFT ”



track the sliced mangoes to their origin would have taken approximately seven days.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently adopted this technology for food labeling requirements to inform consumers about “added sugar” to the product. This makes it easier for companies producing end products to track the suppliers of ingredients through the information recorded in the blocks, thereby saving both time and money.

In the present age, information has a very special place and protecting its privacy is another important application of blockchain technology. Important information like user identity, passwords, address, Permanent Account Number (PAN), bank details and so on, are spread across the internet, leaving us vulnerable to data theft.

Out of 3.2 million fraud cases reported to the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC) in 2019, nearly 20 per cent were related to data and identity theft. According to the 2019 NortonLifeLock Cyber Safety Insight Report, around 40 per cent of Indian consumers have experienced identity theft and have lost approximately ₹1.2 trillion in 2019 due to cyber crime.

Blockchain technology finds its application in securing the data of individuals by providing privacy of information. Instead of having a central database, which is the current practice, a blockchain ledger acts as a digital rights management system providing relevant permissions to access required information. For instance, if information related to age is required, then only that statistic is released instead of additional data like address and so on. Since information is not present in the form of a central database, it's vulnerability to theft is drastically reduced.

Blockchain technology also makes the tracking of digital information difficult because of three-layered secure data exchange. The data seeker, data provider and the network operator do not know each other. Going forward, this may be the best strategy to protect consumers' data and ensure privacy.

Supply chain is another invisible area which has a huge impact on the operations of any business. Any interruption can lead to an overall disruption. Blockchain technology provides increased transparency by providing participants increased visibility across all activities in the supply chain. It also builds a resilient system, pre-defining business conditions, so that contracts are automatically kicked-in when these conditions are fulfilled.

This technology also streamlines the addition of any supplier or vendor into the business, which traditionally is a time-consuming activity. Using the unique aspect of immutability, the process of recording new vendor details in a trustworthy manner, is less time consuming. Other industries where blockchain technology can provide transformational opportunity are banking and financial markets, insurance, risk management, the healthcare industry, research and clinical trials, commerce, retail management, media and the automation industry, to name a few.

Globalisation is the mainstay of today's world with ever-increasing cross-border trade and business. However, the missing link is trust. This lack of confidence can also lead to disruption in traditional business models, which are usually process related and have several stakeholders. Blockchain technology can bring about a transformational shift by developing faith between the parties. Such new business models have been used by com-

panies like Uber, Airbnb and Netflix. Although the potential of blockchain technology is immense, there are certain challenges. This know-how is not mature as yet and it may take some time for it to evolve further. A cue can be taken from the fact that internet technology is still making advances after being introduced four decades ago. Other challenges includes the readiness of businesses to adopt this technology and their ability to find a value proposition in it, ensuring the correct governance structure, and placing the correct team to lead the adoption of this know-how.

Additionally, the feasibility of adopting blockchain technology may also be limited due to Government policies, business environments, laws, regulations and bureaucratic red tape. A complex governance structure can lead to ambiguity, interruptions and higher expenditures. In the same vein, blockchain technology adoption in the public sector is mired in delays and has a higher risk when compared to private or hybrid participants.

Blockchain technology is already finding its relevance across industries, like finance, cross-border trade and supply chains. Although it may not be the solution for every business objective, it has the potential to transform other industries as well. Many business leaders want to know the direct correlation between using blockchain technology and improved sales growth or competitive advantage. Blockchain technology, because of its unique characteristics of immutability, transparency and trust, opens up new ecosystems and business models and fresh opportunities for revenue generation.

(The writer is Associate Professor, Amity University, Noida. The views expressed are personal.)

Nurture local leadership for a resilient society

Govt must work towards building an enabling environment for nurturing local leaders and integrate them into the process, thereby ensuring no one gets left behind



The migrant workers who once appeared on the front pages of newspapers and dominated television news were no longer visible in the months following the nationwide lockdown, which was necessitated by the Coronavirus pandemic. Once they reached their respective villages and hometowns, all thoughts of them were erased from public memory. It was as though the crises of hunger and homelessness had been effectively resolved. But nothing could be farther from the truth and the misery of the silent workforce continued in the hinterland as it was plagued by “lockdown hunger”

After the Government announced

the lockdown on March 24, 2020, States and the country at large were reminded of the fact that its cities were incapable of providing a dignified life to a significant section of its residents. They remained confined to the margins despite making significant contributions to the local economy. To make matters worse, relief schemes announced by the Centre and State Governments in response to such calamities seldom reach the most vulnerable, creating gaps in local governance and management.

The pandemic and similar disasters in the past, have underscored the role of the local leadership in filling the critical governance gap. In their communities, these leaders take charge, understanding very well, the socio-cultural nuances and the language of the people they seek to help. What sets them apart are their courageous actions, often going beyond the call of duty and acting with a sense of urgency to serve those facing a calamity.

In June 2020, when cyclone

Nisarga made landfall in Maharashtra, it caused widespread damage in the Raigad area, tearing down homes, devastating farms and felling power poles and trees. The cyclone had hit the coastal districts of Maharashtra from the Arabian Sea with wind speeds that reached up to 120 kilometres per hour. At this time, Pascal Sinor, a priest at the Mary of Nazareth church in Alibaug, Raigad district, distributed rations to 250 families in his parish and, about a 1,000 families in 13 neighbouring tribal villages. With the help of a local civil society agency, Sinor could also arrange for clothes and roofing material for 40 households.

The priest showed the importance of local leadership. He showed that in a crisis, the leadership challenge is an unusual one: The leader needs to act with spontaneity, take inconvenient decisions and confront a system that is paralysed, albeit temporarily, by the calamity.

In the cyclone-prone State of Odisha, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik boldly declared just before a major



twister hit the State in 2013 that he would “like to see zero casualties.” This, in a State that had borne the brunt of a devastating cyclone in 1999 that claimed more than 10,000 lives! To set such a goal for his Government, in a region that suffers from endemic poverty and has poor infrastructure, was a huge political risk. He, nevertheless, announced his goal.

Not only did the State succeed in saving thousands of lives, but it also set an international best practice and now is a model for other States in the

country. In May 2019, too, when Cyclone Fani made landfall in Odisha, loss of life was minimal despite the severity of the storm.

Actions by leaders like Patnaik, in serving people threatened by disasters, have been recognised in a recent report on local leadership for disaster resilience, published by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The report, which documents the journey of several local leaders across Asia through the course of different crises, aims to inspire many more local lead-

ers to contribute to the achievement of the Sendai Framework's goal of disaster and risk reduction in communities.

Perhaps a silver lining in managing the COVID-19 pandemic is also the emergence of many local leaders — ordinary people who have risen to meet the needs of others. For instance, Sourav Bhattacharjee, a theatre student of Rabindra Bharati University in West Bengal, got the idea to open a community kitchen called “*Mohamarir Heshel*” (pandemic kitchen)” during the lockdown in March. He went back to Khowai district of Tripura, his hometown, and started this initiative by recognising the fact that many people had lost their livelihood and could not bank on their savings throughout the pandemic.

Bhattacharjee is just one of the many local leaders that the pandemic gave birth to. Whether these remain one-off initiatives, limited to a story in the media or we enable a system that nurtures and recognises such leadership, is a call for all of us to take.

Despite their crucial role, local leaders face considerable challenges in their work, persevering even in the face of seemingly insurmountable difficulties, ranging from a lack of funds to indifference in their communities. At the same time, they might also lack access to technical know-how and nuances of humanitarian action. Local leadership and action deserve acknowledgement and enhanced support from national governments, international organisations, civil society, businesses, and academia. The role of such people is indispensable in the hour of crisis. Involving them in planning allows for better resilience of local communities.

Governments and civil society must work towards building an enabling environment for nurturing local leaders and integrate them into the process, thereby ensuring no one gets left behind.

(The writer is co-founder of a disaster readiness, response and rehabilitation NGO, SEEDS. The views expressed are personal.)

Trump supporters planning armed protests on Jan 20: FBI

Pentagon approves deployment of more than 15,000 additional National Guard troops in US Capitol

Washington: The FBI has warned that it has received intelligence that “armed protests” were being planned at all 50 US state capitols and in Washington DC in the run-up to President-elect Joe Biden’s inauguration on January 20, leading to fears of more deadly violence by extremists supporting outgoing President Donald Trump.

Posts on pro-Trump and far-right online networks have called for protest action on a number of dates, including armed demonstrations in cities across the country on January 17 and a march in Washington DC on inauguration day itself.

“Armed protests are being planned at all 50 state capitols from January 16 through at least January 20, and at the US Capitol from January 17 through January 20,” according to the internal Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) bulletin obtained by CNN and other media outlets.

Biden is slated to be sworn in as the 46th President of the United States on January 20, along with Indian-origin Kamala Harris as the Vice President.



A Washington State Patrol trooper talks with members of the Washington National Guard inside a fence surrounding the Capitol in anticipation of armed protests

On Monday, Biden told reporters he was not afraid to take the oath of office outside of the US Capitol.

Both he and Harris are still expected to be sworn in outside the building, only two weeks after it was the site of a deadly

raid by radical supporters of Trump opposing the election result.

Only after the Congressional certification of the November 3 presidential elections last week, the outgoing Republican President

Trump has reluctantly accepted the election results and promised a smooth transition of power.

But he still believes the presidential elections had massive voters’ fraud, an allegation which remains unsubstantiated

and have been thrown out of courts dozens of times.

However, Trump’s repeated assertion of massive voters’ fraud has incited his base. This resulted in thousands of his supporters storming the Capitol Hill, the historic building, that houses the US Congress on January 6.

Five people, including a woman and a police official died and several dozens injured in the incident that is now considered as a dark letter day in the history of American democracy.

The Democratic Party, which has majority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate and would occupy the White House after January 20, on Monday moved second impeachment proceedings against Trump, blaming him for the unprecedented violence.

The FBI and the American security and intelligence agencies, who were taken aback by the last week inglorious moment at the Capitol Hill, a major breach of security that put the lives of hundreds of American lawmakers at risk, are now leaving nothing to chance.

Pramila tests Covid +ve after being in lockdown at US Capitol

Washington: Indian-American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal said on Tuesday that she has tested positive for coronavirus after being locked down in a secured room at the US Capitol where several Republican lawmakers recklessly refused to wear masks in the moments after the January 6 attack.

“I just received a positive Covid-19 test result after being locked down in a secured room at the Capitol where several Republicans not only cruelly refused to wear a mask but recklessly mocked colleagues and staff who offered them one,” 55-year-old Jayapal tweeted.

In a statement, Jayapal said she began quarantining immediately after the attack on the Capitol, fearing and foreseeing exactly what would occur given the number of maskless lawmakers sitting in the same room with her.

Trump issues emergency declaration in Washington DC

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has issued an emergency declaration for the national capital here ahead of his successor Joe Biden’s inauguration on January 20, amidst threat perception to the event by federal agencies.

In a statement on Monday, the White House said the President’s action authorises the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to coordinate relief efforts to alleviate the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population.

The emergency in Washington DC will be effective from Monday till January 24.

It comes in the wake of last week’s violent protest, in which thousands of pro-Trump supporters stormed the Capitol building and clashed with

police, interrupting a constitutional process by Congress to affirm the victory of President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris in the election. Five people, including a Capitol Police officer, died in the protests.

According to the White House, the emergency declaration also provides appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorised under Title V of the Stafford Act to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the District of Columbia.

Specifically, the FEMA is authorised to identify, mobilise, and provide at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency. Emergency protective measures, limited to direct Federal assistance, will be provided at 100 per cent Federal funding, the White House said.

EU warns Iran enrichment moves could imperil nuclear deal

Brussels: The official supervising the agreement aimed at curbing Iran’s nuclear ambitions is warning that Tehran’s decision to ramp up uranium enrichment could undermine efforts to keep the deal alive amid diplomatic efforts to bring the United States back on board.

European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Iran’s intention to enrich uranium up to 20 per cent at the Fordo underground nuclear facility “is a very serious development and a matter of deep concern,” and “has very severe proliferation implications.” Last week, Iran began enriching uranium to levels unseen since the deal was struck in 2015.

Iran has argued that it is no longer obliged to respect limits laid out in the pact, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, because President Donald Trump violated it first by pulling the United States out of the deal in 2018, which resulted in crippling sanctions on Iran’s moribund economy.

The deal offers Iran economic incentives in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program, but with the reinstatement

of American sanctions, the other signatories — China, France, Germany, Russia and the U.K. — have struggled to provide Iran the assistance it seeks.

President-elect Joe Biden has said he hopes to return the US to the deal, which was negotiated while he was vice president. Borrell and the other countries would welcome such a move.

“At this critical juncture, Iran’s action also risks undermining efforts aimed at building upon the existing diplomatic process. We urge Iran to refrain from further escalation and reverse this course of action without delay,” Borrell said in his statement, released late Monday.

He said that full and timely cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency “remains critical.”

Borrell added that the EU looks “forward to working with the incoming U.S. Administration.” Despite Iran’s violations, the IAEA has reported that Tehran continues to give inspectors full access to its nuclear sites — a key reason the signatories say it is worth preserving.



Chief of National Transportation Safety Committee Soerjanto Tjahjono, left, and Chief of National Search and Rescue Agency, Bagus Puruhito, right, hold the box containing the flight data recorder of Sriwijaya Air flight SJ-182 retrieved from the Java Sea on Tuesday

‘China completes 3D mapping of its Western border’

Beijing: China’s People’s Liberation Army (PLA) recently started deploying the country’s first panoramic, high-precision spatial datum that covers the uncharted Western border region of the country, official media here reported on Tuesday.

The system which provides 3D mapping with centimetre level accuracy will contribute to the infrastructure construction as well as combat capability enhancement of Chinese forces in the region, state-run Global Times reported.

China has the longest border spanning 22,000 kms and shares them with 14 countries with 11 of them, including India, in the Western sector.

India and China have 3,488-km long Line of Actual Control (LAC) including the Eastern Ladakh where the armies of the two countries have deployed a large number

of troops.

Over the past two years a navigation and mapping unit affiliated with the PLA Western Theatre Command, which looks after the borders with India, traversed over 20,000 kms and established the first panoramic, high-precision spatial datum in the western border region based on 3D geographic information from remote sensing images and joint situational precognition, the Global Times quoted the official China Central Television (CCTV) as saying.

“The panoramic spatial datum is like a multifunctional, highly accurate ruler that can indicate the coordinates of remote sensing images and other geographic data. We can evaluate the data, that can reach centimeter-level accuracy,”

Wang Yanbin, deputy leader of the navigation and mapping unit, told CCTV.

Cop killed in attack on polio vaccination team in Pak

PTI ■ PESHAWAR

Militants targeted a polio vaccination team in northwestern Pakistan on Tuesday, killing a policeman in the latest attack on workers engaged in the campaign against the crippling disease.

The unidentified gunmen opened fire on the team at Latambar area in Karak district of Khyber- Pakhtunkhwa province.

The policemen were providing security cover to the vaccinators.

A policeman patrolling the area was killed in the firing.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Pakistan and neighbouring Afghanistan are the only two remaining countries in the world where polio is endemic.

Immunisation efforts in the past have been hampered by militants. They have alleged the immunisation campaigns are a cover for Western spies.

Uganda’s Opp cites ‘untold violence’ before election

Kampala (Uganda): Opposition figures in Uganda are criticizing widespread violence by security forces ahead of Thursday’s presidential election, while main challenger Bobi Wine said soldiers who raided his home Tuesday morning arrested a security guard and beat two gardeners badly.

“The terror, frankly, is unprecedented,” said Kizza Besigye, a veteran opposition leader who challenged longtime President Yoweri Museveni in four elections.

“Violence, terror seem to

be scaled up with every coming election. This election has witnessed untold violence. It gets worse and worse by the day.”

The army spokeswoman did not respond to a request for comment. The police spokesman was unavailable.

Wine, a popular singer and lawmaker whose real name is Kyagulanyi Ssentamu, spoke alongside other opposition figures in the capital, Kampala, on the last day of campaigning as they seek to deny Museveni another term.

Officials: Egypt reopens airspace to Qatar flights

AP ■ CAIRO

Egypt on Tuesday reopened its airspace to Qatar flights after regional heavyweight Saudi Arabia reopened its airspace and border with the Gulf Arab state last week, Egyptian airport officials said.

A Qatar Airways plane is due to land in Cairo on Friday, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were

not authorised to speak to the media.

It will be the first commercial flight between the two countries since Egypt joined Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in a boycott of Qatar in 2017, accusing it of cozying up to Iran and financing extremist groups in the region. Doha denied the charges, criticising the Arab embargo as a bid to subvert its sovereignty.

Appeal for Identification



General Public is hereby informed that a male dead body **Name:** Unknown, **S/o** Unknown, **R/o:** Unknown, **Age:** About 65 years, **Height:** 167 cms. **Complexion:** Black, **Sex:** Male, **Hair:** Black, **Face:** Oval, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Black T-Shirt & Grey Pant and bare feet. **ID Mark:** A Mole on Right Cheek was found in unconscious condition at B.K.S. Marg Near Gate No.5, of Dr. RML Hospital, on 08.01.2021. He was admitted in Dr. RML Hospital for Treatment. During Treatment he was declared dead. In this regard, a **DD No. 33-A Dated 08.01.2021** has been lodged at PS North Avenue, Delhi. 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., North Avenue, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-23093040, 23093294

DP/189/NDD/2021

Notice Inviting e-Tender

No. SSA/MIS/PAL/414/2020/3970 Date: 12.01.2021

Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites tender through e-Tendering process from reputed Firm for implementation of Artificial Intelligence based Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) platform in selected 200 Government Schools.

To participate in the tender process through e-procurement document, bidder should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The Bidder who have downloaded the tender schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 10,000/- (Rupees Ten thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam, from any nationalized Bank and payable at Guwahati. The tender should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

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



Janasanyog /CF/3863/20

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client HDFC Ltd. who had disburse a Loan to Mr. Bhuwan Joshi and Mrs. Deepa, against the mortgage of Property being Unit No.4083, Sector-4A, Vansundhra, Ghaziabad, U.P. It has come to the notice that the original property documents viz Allotment Letter dated 23.04.2001, Possession Letter dated 18.06.2001 both issued by UPAPV in the name of Mr. Pankaj Mohan Jha, Sale Deed dated 28.03.2003 registered at Doc. No. 5131, Bahi No.1, Jild No.6501 executed by UPAPV in favour of Mr. Pankaj Mohan Jha and Sale Deed dated 02.11.2012 registered at Doc. No. 39410, Bahi No.1, Jild No. 22587 executed by Mr. Pankaj Mohan Jha in favour of Mr. Bhuwan Joshi and Mrs. Deepa are not traceable. It is hereby appealed to the general public that whosoever finds any of the documents mentioned hereinabove may kindly return the same to the HDFC Ltd., The Capital Court, Munirka, Outer Ring Road, Olof Palme Marg, New Delhi - 110067.

Karnail Singh, Advocate
Ch. No.153, Saket Court Complex,
New Delhi-110014.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice for claim/objection by the legal heirs if any against the purchase of property

Notice is hereby given to the general public at large that the property bearing no. G-27/6A Rajouri Garden, New Delhi-110027 (hereinafter referred to as the 'property') is being transferred in name of Mrs. Raminder Kaur Kohli W/o Shri. Charanjeet Singh Kohli and Mr. Harmeet Sachdeva S/o Shri. Gurbaksh Singh Sachdeva (hereinafter collectively referred to as 'my client') from the rightful owners of the aforesaid property.

In case of any person having any right, title, interest, claim of whatsoever nature by way of sale, gift, lease, heirship, possession or by any other nature in respect of the aforesaid property, the same should be known in writing to me at the address mentioned herein below with the documentary proof within 14 days from the date of publication of the present notice, failing which such claim or claims if any, of such person or persons shall be construed to be waived and/or abandoned and the transfer shall be completed.

Jatin Ghuliani,
Advocate,
Address: 522 Dr. Mukherjee Nagar
New Delhi-110009

PNle-T No. 26/EE/DWS/KD/2020—21 Dt. 06/01/2021

The Executive Engineer, DWS Division Kumarghat, Unakoti Tripura invites single bid percentage rate e-tender on behalf of the “Governor of Tripura” for Construction of Innovative scheme at Karaicherra under Karaicherra VC of Pecharthal RD Block. Deadline for online bidding is 05/02/2020 Up to 15.00 Hrs. For details please visit www.tripuratenders.gov.in and for any query please contact eedwsdskgt@gmail.com All subsequent corrigendum will be available in the website only.

(1) DNle-T No_173/SE/DWS/C/KGT/2020—21

Period of downloading of bidding documents at:- 07/01/2021 to 05/02/2021

Deadline for online Bidding:- 06/02/2021 up to 15.00 Hours

Date & Time of opening Bid:- 06/02/2021 up to 16.00 Hours

Place of opening of Bid(s):- O/o the Executive Engineer, DWS Division, Kumarghat

For details please contact to the office of the undersigned.

For details please visit:- www.tripuratenders.gov.in

Sd/-

FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNOR OF TRIPURA

Executive Engineer,
DWS Division, Kumarghat,
Unakoti Tripura.

ICA/C-2761/2020-21

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mr. Sandeep Kumar Gupta became the owner of Flat Bearing No. 203, (area measuring 115 sq. mtrs), in Sumera Apartments, Kaushtambi, Ghaziabad, (U.P.) by virtue of Mutation Letter dated 01.04.2019 in the record of GDA, after demise of his father late Mr. S. C. Gupta who was lessee of the said property vide lease of land and sale of superstructure dated 11.03.2003, Registration No. 4888. All persons including all other legal heirs are hereby informed that Mr. Sandeep Kumar Gupta want Sell the said property to someone who is taking home loan from ICICI Bank Ltd. for purchase of the said property, if anybody has any objections upon the said mutation letter / said property and its ownership / Sale and Mortgage, kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, Ind Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph.: 9114111227-28 kumarsassociatesadvocates@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

To be known to all that I, A.K. Grover S/o Shri Ishar Das R/o 19, Shri Fort Road, New Delhi-110049 has applied for conversion of the Flat No.598, on Third Floor (Duplex), Pocket 2, Sector 19, Dwarka, New Delhi from lease hold to free hold in DBA. The Original Allotment Letter, Possession Letter, Site Possession Slip & NOC for electricity and water connection of the above flat have been lost. An NCR to this effect has been lodged in P.S. Crime Branch in vide S.O. No.430/2014 LR No.32150/2021 dated 12.01.2021. Any person(s), claiming any right, interest, having any objection or right in possession of original documents, may write/contact with above named person at above address/phone No. 9811083026 within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice. The person claiming any right/interest/objections with respect to this property can personally inform or write to Dr. Director (LAB) H or Director (H)-1, D Block, 3rd Floor, Vikas Sadan, INA, New Delhi.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for Notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name **RASHTRA SAMANYA PRAJA PARTY**. The office of the party is located at Door No.3-44, Ground Floor, Athvelly, Medchal Telangana State-501401. This party have submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of people Act 1951, Name of the office Bearers of the party are as follow, President: Jakata Srinivas, Address 3-44, 1st Floor, Athvelly, Medchal Telangana State-501401. General Secretary: Mir Firasath Ali Address 13-6-825/8/1 Mehdi Colony, Lungar Houz, Hyderabad Telangana State 500008, Treasurer: Jakata Srikanth Address 3-44, 1st Floor, Athvelly, Medchal TS 501401. If any one has any objection to the registration of **RASHTRA SAMANYA PRAJA PARTY** they must send their objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary **RASHTRA SAMANYA PRAJA PARTY**, Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

President/General Secretary
RASHTRA SAMANYA PRAJA PARTY

Industrial production shrinks 1.9 pc in Nov

ENTERS NEGATIVE ZONE AFTER 2 MONTHS

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Industrial production contracted by 1.9 per cent in November, entering the negative territory after a two-month gap, mainly due to poor showing by manufacturing and mining sectors, official data showed on Tuesday.

The manufacturing sector - which constitutes 77.63 per cent of the index of industrial production (IIP) - recorded a contraction of 1.7 per cent in November 2020, as per data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

Mining sector output too witnessed a decline, shrinking 7.3 per cent. However, power

generation grew 3.5 per cent in the month under review.

The IIP had grown by 2.1 per cent in November 2019.

Industrial production had plunged 18.7 per cent in March last year following the Covid-19 outbreak and remained in the negative zone till August 2020.

With the resumption of economic activities, factory output posted a flat growth of 0.48 per cent in September.

The IIP growth for October has been revised upwards to 4.9 per cent from last month's provisional estimates of 3.6 per cent.

The government had imposed a lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19 infections on March 25, 2020.

With the gradual relaxation of restrictions, there has been a relative improvement in the economic activities by varying degrees as well as in data

reporting, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation had said in a statement issued in November.

The ministry had also given a disclaimer that it may not be appropriate to compare the IIP in the post-pandemic months with the data for months preceding the COVID-19 outbreak.

The manufacturing sector had recorded a growth of 3 per cent in November 2019.

Similarly, mining sector output grew 1.9 per cent, but electricity generation shrank by 5 per cent in November 2019.

The output of capital goods, which is a barometer of investment, fell by 7.1 per cent in November 2020 as against a contraction of 8.9 per cent earlier.

Consumer durables output fell by 0.7 per cent, compared to 1.4 per cent contraction in November 2019.

Domestic hospitality industry to contract by 65% in FY21: Report

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The domestic hospitality industry, which has been severely affected by the Covid-19 related disruptions, is likely to witness a decline of over 65 per cent in 2020-21, according to a report.

However, there might be a recovery in demand in the later part of financial year 2021-22 as vaccine rollouts gains traction, it said.

In a report, rating agency Icra said it expects the industry to contract 65 per cent in the financial year 2021, with massive operating and net losses, wiping out the cumulative profits of the four past years.

However, a sharp demand recovery is possible in the later part of the financial year 2021-22, as vaccine rollouts gain traction.

Much though will be contingent upon the spread of the pandemic and success of vaccination efforts, the report said.

The situation is still

evolving, with numerous headwinds as seen with the restart of crowd control and lockdowns, increasing India's COVID cases and globally over the last few weeks, the report added.

The domestic hospitality industry has been one of the worst-hit sectors, severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, which restricted mobility and hotel occupancies in all the major markets, the Icra report stated.

Icra research observed that pan-India occupancy hit an all-time low of 18-20 per cent in eight months of the financial year 2021, down from 64-65 per cent in the previous year. The average room rates (ARR)s was at Rs 3,400-3,500 per night, a discount of 35-40 per cent, while the RevPAR declined by about 80 per cent during the period under consideration.

Although some sequential improvement has been wit-

nessed since September 2020, recovery is slow and arduous, punctuated by setbacks, it said, adding that this will culminate in a weak financial year 2021.

"We expect FY21 RevPAR to decline by 70-75 per cent pan-India and close at Rs 900-1,000 per night. It will continue to be impacted by the lockdown, travel restrictions because of the virus spread.

"FY22 will see the industry witnessing over 120 per cent growth in revenues and operating margins clawing up to 13-15 per cent supported by pick-up in revenues and some continued benefits of the large-scale cost rationalisation measures undertaken during the pandemic, particularly in staffing," Icra VP and Sector Head Pavethra Ponniah said.

However, to put these growth numbers in perspective, the optically high growth numbers for financial year 2021-22 will only place the industry on a recovery path to pre-COVID levels in 2-3 years, she said.

INBRIEF

SHIVALIK SMALL FINANCE BANK RECEIVES LICENSE FROM RBI

Delhi: Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SSFB) on Tuesday announced the receipt of a licence from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to carry on banking business as a Small Finance Bank (SFB) in India. This marks the successful completion of the last major step in the transition of Shivalik Mercantile Co-operative Bank (SMCB) to a SFB. SMCB is the first Urban Cooperative Bank (UCB) in India to transition to a Small Finance Bank under the voluntary transition scheme.

PETROL, DIESEL PRICES HOLD EVEN AS CRUDE REMAINS STRONG

New Delhi: Retail fuel prices across the four metro cities remained unchanged for the fifth consecutive day on Tuesday. Accordingly, in the national capital, petrol was sold at the record high of Rs 84.20 per litre, reached on Thursday (January 7). In Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, the fuel was priced at Rs 90.83, Rs 86.96 and Rs 85.68 per litre, respectively. Petrol and diesel prices had increased on two successive days last Wednesday and Thursday taking gasoline to record high levels in Delhi while keeping its prices very close to record high levels in other metro cities.

GOLD GAINS ₹297; SILVER JUMPS ₹1,404

New Delhi: Gold prices in the national capital jumped for the second consecutive day on Tuesday gaining Rs 297 to Rs 48,946 per 10 gram, in line with rally in international precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at Rs 48,649 per 10 gram. Silver also gained Rs 1,404 to Rs 65,380 per kg, from Rs 63,976 per kg in the previous trade. In the international market, both gold and silver were trading in the green at USD 1,858 per ounce and USD 25.39 per ounce, respectively. The rise came amid rising crude oil prices.

Currently, Brent crude price is high near the \$56-per-barrel mark. Diesel price also was the same for the fourth consecutive day across the metros. In Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, diesel was priced at Rs 74.38, Rs 81.07, 79.72 and Rs 77.97, all unchanged levels since Thursday.

Benchmarks scale fresh peaks for 3rd day; RIL, HDFC Bank spurt

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity indices vaulted to fresh lifetime highs for the third session on the trot on Tuesday as investors remained in risk-on mode amid unabated foreign fund inflows.

Overcoming a wobbly start, the 30-share BSE Sensex surged to its all-time peak of 49,569.14 during the day, propelled by robust buying in index heavyweights Reliance Industries and HDFC Bank.

The index finally finished at its new closing record of 49,517.11, up by 247.79 points or 0.50 per cent.

On similar lines, the broader NSE Nifty advanced 78.70 points or 0.54 per cent to a fresh closing peak of 14,563.45. It scaled a record level of 14,590.65 during the session.

On the Sensex chart, SBI was the top gainer, rallying 3.65 per cent, followed by Bharti Airtel, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, ITC, Axis Bank and NTPC.

RIL and HDFC Bank accounted for the lion's share of the benchmark's gains.

On the other hand, Asian Paints, HUL, Nestle India, Titan, Kotak Bank and Sun

Pharma were among the lag-

gards, dropping up to 3.93 per cent. "The pace of the market rally continued despite RBI's caution over elevated NPA levels in 2021, supported by PSU Banks and auto stocks. Majority of the sectors traded in the green in anticipation of good quarterly result while pharma and FMCG experienced some selling.

Rupee darts up 15 paise to 73.25 vs USD

Mumbai: The rupee recouped early losses and closed 15 paise higher at 73.25 against the US dollar on Tuesday, supported by weakness in the greenback overseas and recovery in domestic equities. Unabated FPI inflows added to the momentum, though gains were capped by firm crude oil prices, forex traders said. At the interbank forex market, the rupee opened weak at 73.42 and shuffled between a high of 73.24 and a low of 73.44.

Policy update doesn't affect privacy of messages; includes change related to messaging a biz: WhatsApp

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

WhatsApp on Tuesday said its latest policy update does not affect the privacy of messages as the Facebook-owned company sought to address concerns around security of user data on the platform.

In a blogpost, WhatsApp emphasised that it does not share users' contact lists or data of groups with Facebook for ads purposes, and that neither WhatsApp nor Facebook can read messages or hear calls between users on WhatsApp.

Last week, WhatsApp had informed users of an update in its Terms of Service and privacy policy regarding how it processes user data and partners with Facebook to offer integrations across the social media giant's products.

It also stated that users will

have to agree to the new terms and policy by February 8, 2021, in order to continue using WhatsApp's service.

This kickstarted a spate of conversations and memes on the internet over WhatsApp's alleged sharing of user information with Facebook, and many users have started shifting to rival platforms like Telegram and Signal.

"We want to be clear that the policy update does not affect the privacy of your messages with friends or family in any way.

Instead, this update includes changes related to messaging a business on WhatsApp, which is optional, and provides further transparency about how we collect and use data," WhatsApp said.

It added that WhatsApp accesses only the phone num-

bers from the address book (after getting user's permission) to make messaging fast and reliable, and that it doesn't share contact lists with the other apps Facebook offers.

"We use group membership to deliver messages and to protect our service from spam and abuse.

We don't share this data with Facebook for ads purposes.

Again, these private chats are end-to-end encrypted so we can't see their content," it noted. A report by internet security researcher Rajshekhar Rajaharia had claimed that at least 1,700 private WhatsApp group links were visible on Google through a web search. WhatsApp noted that users can choose to set their messages to disappear from chats "for additional privacy".

FY21 fiscal deficit seen at 7.4% of GDP: SBI Report

IANs ■ NEW DELHI

India's fiscal deficit in the current financial year is likely to reach 7.4 per cent of the GDP on the back of enhanced government expenditure amid the pandemic, said the SBI

Ecowrap report.

The report noted that as per the first advanced estimate of the GDP, real GDP will contract by 7.7 per cent in FY21, and nominal GDP growth is expected at (-) 4.2 per cent. Accordingly, the nominal GDP for FY22 would grow by 15 per cent to Rs 224.04 lakh crore.

Sebi invites bids to provide outsourced staff, security guard for Bhubaneswar office

New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi is planning to rope in an independent agency to provide contract staff, including receptionist and data entry operator, for its Bhubaneswar office.

Besides, the regulator is also planning to hire an agency that will provide security guards. In two separate notices, inviting applications from the

interested parties, Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said the services would be required at the regulator's local office in Bhubaneswar. The scope of the work involves providing the necessary manpower like housekeeping cum office attendant, receptionist, data entry operator and office assistant.

DELHI JAL BOARD; GOVT. OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER EE (E&M) HP-I HAIDERPUR WATER WORKS, DELHI-110085

"STOP CORONA: WEAR MASK, FOLLOW SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MAINTAIN HAND HYGIENE" Press N.I.T. No. 08 (2020-21)						
S. No	Name of work	Approximate value based on Schedule of rates/ item rates/ lump Sum (Rs in lacs)	Earnest Money (Refundable) in Rs.	Tender Fee	Date of release of tender in e-procurement solution	Last date/time of receipt of tender through e procurement solution.
1.	Replacement of Turn Table of Clarifier No. 6 of HDO make with allied works at Filter House, HP-I, (Re-Invited) Tender ID- 2021_DJB_198597_2	Item rate	60000/-	500/-	11.01.2021	30.01.2021
2.	SI/IT/C of non-contact type flow meters at sump of Raw Water Pump House Ph-I & Ph-II at Haiderpur Water Works Tender ID- 2021_DJB_198597_3	Item rate	56000/-	500/-	11.01.2021	30.01.2021
Further details in this regard can be seen at https://delhi.govtprocurement.com						
ISSUES BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 307(2020-21)				Sd/- (SUNIL KUMAR) EE (E&M) HP-I		

BSES BSES Yamuna Power Limited		BSES Yamuna Power Limited, New Delhi ... A joint venture with Govt. of NCT of Delhi			
TENDER NOTICE				Date: 13.01.2021	
Sealed tenders under two Bid System (Unpriced & Priced) is invited for following jobs from all bidders					
NIT No.	Brief Item Description	Estimated Cost (₹Lakhs) (Annual)	Cost of EMD (₹Lakhs)	Due Date & Time of Submission	Date & Time of Opening
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/KD/30	SUPPLY AND SERVICES FOR FIREWALL IN BYPL	₹ 95.00	₹ 1.90	02.02.2021 14:00 HRS	03.02.2021 15:30 HRS
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/AS/31	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (AMC) FOR DIFFERENT DIVISIONS IN BYPL	₹ 540.00	₹ 18.00	02.02.2021 15:00 HRS	03.02.2021 16:00 HRS
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/RD/32	HIRING OF VEHICLES IN BYPL	₹ 400.00	₹ 8.00	03.02.2021 15:00 HRS	04.02.2021 15:30 HRS
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/RD/33	PROVIDING HOUSEKEEPING AND OTHER ALLIED SERVICES IN VARIOUS OFFICES OF BYPL	₹ 713.00	₹ 7.13	03.02.2021 15:00 HRS	04.02.2021 16:00 HRS
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/RD/34	PROVIDING HOUSEKEEPING AND OTHER ALLIED SERVICES IN VARIOUS HOUSING COLONIES OF BYPL	₹ 75.00	₹ 1.50	03.02.2021 15:00 HRS	04.02.2021 16:30 HRS
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/RD/35	PROVIDING COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF SPLIT/WINDOW/DUCTABLE AC'S AND DISMANTLING & REINSTALLATION OF AC'S INSTALLED AT VARIOUS OFFICES IN BYPL	₹ 38.00	₹ 0.76	03.02.2021 15:00 HRS	04.02.2021 17:00 HRS
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/PM/36	FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES (DATA CENTRE, SERVER/DB, NETWORK & HARDWARE)	₹ 140.00	₹ 2.80	04.02.2021 15:00 HRS	05.02.2021 15:00 HRS
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/PM/37	FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES (DESKTOP & IT HARDWARE SUPPORT)	₹ 170.00	₹ 3.40	04.02.2021 15:00 HRS	05.02.2021 15:30 HRS
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/PM/38	NETWORK CHANGE DATA CAPTURE BY GIS SURVEY, GIS OPERATIONAL CHANGE MANAGEMENT ON SLA BASIS IN BYPL	₹ 98.00	₹ 1.96	04.02.2021 15:00 HRS	05.02.2021 16:00 HRS
CMC/BY/20-21/RB/PM/39	PROVIDING BACK SUPPORT FOR SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT, MIGRATION OF APPLICATIONS, PMG AND SAP BASES IN BYPL	₹ 155.00	₹ 3.10	04.02.2021 15:00 HRS	05.02.2021 16:30 HRS
Cost of each Tender Documents: ₹1180/- For details in respect of qualifying requirements, Terms & Conditions, Purchase and Services /Submission of tender documents/Corrigendum(if any) etc. please visit our website www.bsesdelhi.com -> BSES YAMUNA POWER LTD-> Tenders-> open tenders.					
Regd.Off: BSES Yamuna Power Ltd, Shakti Kiran Building, Karkardooma, Delhi-110032 CIN: U40109DL2001PLC111525 TEL: 011-41247777 Fax-011-4124 7787 Website: www.bsesdelhi.com					



Govt. of Bihar

Prohibition, Excise and Registration Department (Registration),

BIHAR SOCIETY FOR COMPUTERISATION OF REGISTRATION OFFICES (BISCORE)

Corrigendum -01 dated -12.01.2021

of REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

For

Selection of Service Provider for Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of MPLS / VPN Connectivity for District Registry Offices and Sub Registry Offices of Prohibition, Excise and Registration Department , Government of Bihar and to State Data Center at Beltron Bhawan, Patna, Bihar

Tender No: Registration/Biscore/MPLS-01/2021

Dated: 04.01.2021

Adv No. - IPRD_PR_010640/20-21

An e-tender has been invited at <https://eproc2.bihar.gov.in/> for Selection of Service Provider for Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Maintenance of Secondary MPLS/VPN Connectivity vide Tender No. Registration/Biscore/MPLS-01/2021 dated 04.01.2021.

In Invitation for Bids (IFB) section of **Request for Proposal (RFP)** document Tender processing Fee (Sl. No.- 5),Tender Fee/ Cost of BOQ (Sl. No. -6) and Earnest Money deposit (Sl. No.-7) are being ammended as below :-.

Sl. No. of IFB of RFP	Information	Details
5	Tender Processing Fee (TPF) (Non-Refundable)	INR. 590/- (Exclusive of GST @ 18%) to be paid through e-Payment mode (i.e. NEFT / RTGS, Net Banking, Credit / Debit Card) only.
6	Tender Fee / Cost of BOQ (Non-Refundable)	INR. 10'000/- only (Rupees Ten thousands only) exclusive GST payable online through e-Procurement
7	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	INR 2, 00,000/- only (Rupees Two lakhs only) Earnest Money should be deposited in form of Bank Guarantee issued by a scheduled commercial bank favoring Bihar Society for Computerization of Registration Offices (BISCORE) , payable at Patna.

Except above mentioned amendment, all details mentioned in RFP document shall stay as they are published before.

Authority Signatory
(Assistant Inspector General of Registration
PR- 011061 (Registration) 2020-21 -Cum – Secretary , BISCORE, Bihar, Patna)

किसी भी तरह अपवाद को जानकारी अथवा सुझाव हेतु अपवाद प्रपोजन के हेल्पलाइन नं. 1070 पर सम्पर्क किया जा सकता है।

RAJASTHAN STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION

NIT for Integrated RFID Smart Card Management System on BOOT Model at RSRTC.	
Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC), Jaipur invite bids from eligible bidders who have necessary qualifications and experience to carry out the work of Selection of Integrated RFID Smart Card Management System on BOOT Model at RSRTC in a time bound manner. Details of the tender notifications and eligibility criteria can be seen in the NIT exhibited on website https://eproc.raajasthan.gov.in or www.sppp.raajasthan.gov.in and our website www.rsrtc.raajasthan.gov.in from 07th Jan. 2021, the bidders who are interested in bidding can download the RFP from aforesaid website from 07th Jan. 2020 onward. UBN No.- RTC2021WL0B00403	
Advt. No. 168/2020-21 Raj.Samwadc/20/8788	DYGM (IT)

NORTHERN RAILWAY	
NOTICE INVITING TENDER	
Name of work and its location	30-Elect-34-T-2020-21-E3 Comprehensive annual maintenance contract of D. G. set with AMF panel/control panel working over Delhi Division
Approx. cost of the works in	Rs. 89.60 lacs
Address of the office	Sr. Divl Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
Earnest Money	Rs. 1,79,200.00
Date & time of submission of tender	08.02.2021, 12.00 Hrs.
Opening of tender	08.02.2021, 12.00 Hrs.
Website & notice board	www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi
87/2021	
Serving Customers with a Smile	

INDO COTSPIN LTD REGD. OFFICE : Delhi mile stone, 78 K.M, G.T. Road, N.H. 1, Post Box No. 3, Post Office Samalkha, Village Jhatipur, Panipat-132103, (Haryana), India NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 29 of the Securities Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, A meeting of Board of Directors of the Company is scheduled to be held on Saturday, 25th January, 2021 at the registered office of the company, inter alia to consider and approve and take on record unaudited financial results of the Company for the quarter ended on 31st December, 2020. CIN: L17111HR1995PLC032541 EMAIL: rajpalgargwal2000@yahoo.com info@indocotspin.com www.indocotspin.com Phone: 09896034879 FOR INDO COTSPIN LTD Date : 12.01.2021 Place : Panipat	NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY OPEN TENDER NOTICE (Through e-Tender) e-tender notice no : 2021-01-WMP Date 09.01.2021 On the behalf of President of India e-Tenders are invited by the CWM, Carriage Workshop, NWR, and Jodhpur. 1. Name of work with its Location: Supply, installation, and commissioning of Waste Management Plant of capacity to handle 500 kg garbage per batch working on the principle of Poly-crack Technology by using Heterogeneous Catalytic process. 2. Approximate Cost of work: Rs. 17896465.12 (Rs. One Crore Seventy Eight Lakhs Ninety Six Thousand Four Hundred Sixty Five and Twelve paise only). 3. Earnest Money to be deposited: Rs. 239500.00/- (Rs. Two Lakhs Thirty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Only). 4. Last date and time for Submission of e-tender and Opening of e-tender: 02.02.2021 Up to 15:00 Hrs. and 02.02.2021 after 15:00 Hrs. 5. Web site from e-tender forms can be obtained: www.ireps.gov.in . 6. Address of the NIT Issuing Office: Office of the CWM, Carriage Workshop, NWR, Jodhpur-342001(Rajasthan). 16JAN21 Please join us on Facebook INWRailways
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Innovative digital thinking can help us deal with the possible security threats cautiously. DR SUKHVINDER SINGH DARI lists skills that law aspirants must have to make a lucrative career in the field



THINK INNOVATIVELY

The world we live in today largely revolves around technology and digitisation. New innovations, AI, big data, and artificial intelligence are unfolding new solutions (and problems) everyday; consequently, enabling the rise of new types of business models and associations.

However, the most important thing to note here is that with each new solution comes the possibility of a new security issue that needs to be resolved.

For instance, we are now witnessing a major rise in the consumption of digital media, be it through social interaction channels like Facebook or Instagram, or through content consumption channels like YouTube. Gone are the days when you had to be of certain age to own a mobile phone (along with digitisation, this is another issue of perspective and individual parenting styles, so we will not be focusing on whether it is right or wrong for now); but this is the perfect example of how innovative digital thinking can help us deal with the possible security threats cautiously.

Let us take the example of YouTube. YouTube recognised the advent of content consumption from its platform from people of all ages, and they came up with the idea of creating another specialised section — YouTube Kids that allows parents to keep a check on their kids activities and recognise any possible

cyber-bullying or other perils — a perfect solution to deliver what is best for the changed consumer behaviour.

Now coming back to why such innovative digital thinking is an important skill to master for law aspirants, it is because lawyers are the indispensable partners for tech giants. Whether we talk about tech companies or individual developers and programmers, they need to understand the extents and restrictions under law to be able to construct the ensuing integral decentralised architecture of the future all while protecting the rights of their consumers.

Besides this, teaching innovative digital thinking to the law aspirants, especially those interested in cybersecurity law, can instill the necessary skills relevant to succeed in this age of digital transformation, such as:

Critical thinking for complex problem solving

Digitisation has brought our world face-to-face with overly complex fact patterns, which require vigilant analysis and creative problem-solving. While the traditional concepts can teach law aspirants how to deal with the commonly faced and previously known challenges, introducing them to the art of innovative digital thinking can prepare them to face the unknown challenges that may arise with further evolution of technology.

Consequential thinking is crucial in the digital age. By learning this essential skill, law aspirants can be better prepared in case our traditional systems and assumptions need to be remodelled and require thorough study and analysis of the proposable rules and regulations

Consequential thinking
Consequential thinking is crucial in the digital age. By learning this essential skill, law aspirants can be better prepared in case our traditional systems and assumptions need to be remodelled and require thorough study and analysis of the proposable rules and regulations for the new technological architecture along with their effects on human (or consumer) behaviour.

Flexibility in legal thinking
Legal thinking customarily includes “looking in reverse” and expanding on points of references and analogies with an accentuation on past rules and encounters. Introduction to innovative thinking can aid in changing the outlook of law aspirants and help them realise the need to not just focus on the fundamental beliefs of legal training and reasoning, but also adjust it, as the situation demands, to make it more fitting for a computerised age.

To sum up, a training curriculum incorporating innovative digital thinking is essential to aid law aspirants in gaining the requisite skills to be able play their role as key partners for tech companies and developers in designing the decentralised architecture of future. After all, this new architecture will direct our society towards the digital change that will decide the fate of how we live, work, and learn.

The writer is Director, Symbiosis Law School, Nagpur

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The aim of totalitarian education has never been to instill convictions but to destroy the capacity to form any.

Hannah Arendt

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The RICS School of Built Environment invites applications for the full-time built environment specialisation courses for the academic year 2021 for both the campuses in Noida & Mumbai.

Those who are looking for career opportunities in the field of built environment (real estate, infrastructure & construction sectors), should apply for the Post Graduation courses through the RICS SBE website.

Courses: MBA in Real Estate & Urban Infrastructure, MBA in Construction Project Management, MBA in Construction Economics & Quantity Surveying, and Post Graduate Diploma in Facilities Management.

Eligibility: Candidates seeking admission under sponsored category are required to have 50 per cent marks in graduation with a min score of MAT-450/GMAT- 450/ CMAT — 100 or percentile in CAT/XAT — 65 / NMAT — 50 or Amity Written Test on the day of interview/online mode.

Candidates seeking admission under the Non-Sponsored category are required to have min 50% marks in Graduation with the min score of MAT - 500/GMAT - 500 / CMAT - 150 or percentile in CAT/XAT - 75 / NMAT - 60 or Amity Written Test on the day of interview/online mode.

How to apply: Log on to <https://www.ricsbe.org/>.

BTECH-MTECH COURSES

The Indraprastha Institute of Technology (IIIT Delhi) has recently announced that the International Regular Round Admission process for session 2021-22 is open now and the appearing candidates will have an opportunity to avail up to 100 per cent fellowship.

Eligibility: For BTech: Qualifying Exam should be an equivalent of Class-XII exam

Admissions OPEN

of CBSE (with Mathematics and Physics as highly desirable) that concludes secondary schooling.

Equivalence is as envisaged by the Association of Indian Universities(<https://www.aiu.ac.in>).

Students may apply during or after their final year of secondary education.

For BTech (CSSS), students with Mathematics as one of the subjects in class XII can also apply.

For MTech: The candidate should have completed or must be pursuing a BTech/BS/MSc or equivalent Qualifying Program as described in the admission criteria of the desired program to which admission is sought.

Equivalence of degrees from colleges outside of India is as envisaged by Association of Indian Universities (<https://www.aiu.ac.in>).

Candidates may apply during or after their final year of their undergraduate programme.

For PhD: The candidate should have completed or must be pursuing a BTech/BS/MTech/MS/MSc or equivalent qualifying programme as described in the admission criteria of the desired programme to which admission is sought.

Equivalence of degrees from colleges outside of India is as envisaged by Association of Indian Universities (<https://www.aiu.ac.in>).

Candidates may apply during or after their final year of their undergraduate or postgraduate programme.

Last date to apply: January 22, 2021.

Human Resource Management has significantly evolved over the years and has now become a more humane profession. Over the past decade, coaching, counselling and mentoring has become a very important responsibility for HR managers. The skill of coaching, counselling and mentoring has the potential to revolutionise the relationship between managers and executives while also dealing with different aspects of managing human resources like career planning and development, performance management, stress management, and other areas which may affect employees emotionally.

Well being of an organisation including its profitability and business sustainability, has been positively correlated to employee well being in various studies. Therefore, it is a well established fact that whenever the employee satisfaction is high and their well being is looked after, their commitment and engagement with the organisation is also high.

Students pursuing MBA in HR are always encouraged to imbibe these three skills to help the organisation as well as employees perform better. Every manager has their own leadership style, however coaching and mentoring skills helps one to become a friendly yet effective leader.

Let's understand the importance of the three skills in a business setting.

Coaching in an organisational context

HR professionals are often



encouraged to pursue the coaching role. Coaching is a training method in which a more experienced and skilled professional provides advice and guidance to employees regarding their work goals, performance and career trajectory.

Often, organisations hire external coaches and consultants to help employees, but lately, companies prefer internal HR teams working in the coaching arena, since HR professionals are skilled and prepared to take on this role. Such additional responsibilities are also helpful for budding HR professionals to enhance their career. The coaching role enables new man-

agers to speed up, improve conflict resolution and help obtain individual as well as business goals.

Counselling at workplace

In an organisation, HR professionals are at the forefront of employee development, grievance redressal and employee retention. Workplace counselling is an intervention by the HR team, and the HR managers act as a support specialist to employees from all domains. The counselling process involves providing a safe space for employees to talk about issues at work. HR managers ensure that the process is unbiased, confidential and is seen as an activity for

employee welfare. Most organisations are emphasising on distressed employees to boost their productivity, and also to retain their employees.

An HR mentor for employee development

Mentoring is the process of building a formal relationship with a new and/or inexperienced employee and helping them to quickly understand the organisation and perform to their true potential. An HR professional can thus help build a healthy culture at the workplace by ensuring employee satisfaction and catering to grievances by providing appropriate guidance both formally and informally. This is because a mentor needs to be evaluative and unbiased to help employees quickly speed up as a contributor to the organisation. Considering that every new employee will have new responsibilities and will need to work according to the vision and mission of the organisation, every HR professional must act as a mentor to employees.

Enabling the coaching, counselling and mentoring process, in true earnest, will definitely help to advance organisational goals.

The writer is Director, SCMHRD, Pune

Skills that matter

The skill of coaching, counselling and mentoring has the potential to revolutionise the relationship between managers and executives, says DR PRATIMA SHEOREY

Explore career paths

An engineering and management international internship will provide applicants an edge over others and help explore more opportunities, says SOM SHARMA

In such a competitive job market, an engineering and management international internship abroad will definitely provide you an edge over other candidates. You will gain skills including communication, management, cultural awareness, and, of course, technical, practical and industrial skills that university degrees can't always provide. Moreover, you can experience all of this while having fun discovering and immersing yourself in a new country and its culture.

More engineering companies are becoming global & locally and around the world. They promote cultural variety in their own backyard and have operations in several different countries. From day one, in any engineering company or management company, you will be exposed to and expected to demonstrate awareness of a global way of thinking and doing things.

Engineering: An international internship is one of the best ways to explore career paths in the tech industry. If you're majoring in any engineering field. As an intern, you'll usually be paired with a more experienced engineer who will act as your mentor, giving you guidance on the technical aspects of your project as well as helping you to manage and execute it. While you don't have to go into engineering just



because you're a computer science major, an internship will offer you the opportunity to see what the field is like and whether it's a good fit for you. And because computer science majors are very in demand among employers, the internship is also likely to be very well compensated.

Mechanical engineering: Interns for mechanical engineering deals with everything that moves and/or requires forces to make it move. Tasks in this field include assessing the loads in a machine, determining deflections, stresses and vibrations, and making sure devices meet intended design. As a mechanical engineering intern, some of the industries that you might get involved with are the auto-

motive, aerospace, biotechnology, energy generation, and automation.

Manufacturing engineering: Manufacturing engineering is also a very popular sector at the moment, as there are big governmental initiatives both in developed and developing countries to grow multinational manufacturing capabilities. Manufacturing engineers are responsible for planning, designing, setting up, and improving any manufacturing processes. Interns may find themselves closely working with colleagues in other fields as well, such as health and safety. Some of the roles you might get involved with are developing state-of-the-art and cost-effective processes, acquiring new capabilities and machinery, introducing new products to production and so on. Manufacturing engineers work in a wide range of sectors like food and drink, oil, and pharmaceuticals.

Management: No matter the job role you hope to land post-graduation, the international internship offers MBA students an opportunity to learn valuable lessons and gain work experience. An international internship would be an asset to your professional background and help you develop abilities that will give you a global outlook and reach.

The writer is Founder of Edu Brain Group

Digital learning solutions

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The IA Labs invests in young engineering talent in the areas of Full Stack, Cloud, DevOps, AI/ML, and Cyber Security. This makes the learners pursue a tech career of their choice whereas Startups and IT MNCs get industry-ready talent with an improved ROI. India Accelerator — the country's leading startup accelerator programme launches a disruptive tech learning platform — IA Labs. The platform aims at bringing digital learning solutions for engineering graduates and encourages them to pursue their career in new-age technologies to stay ahead in the digital world.

India is the second-fastest digitising economy in the world and as per the recent

estimates — the Indian technology sector will contribute \$1 tn of economic value with a demand for 65 mn digital jobs by 2025. On the other hand, fewer than 5 per cent of 1.5 million engineering graduates who pass out every year in India are cut out for high-skill programming jobs.

Commenting on the launch, Mona Singh CAO of IA said: "We are delighted to come up with the significant initiative that is set to accelerate the career of fresh engineering graduates and working professionals. We aim to provide experiential learning by doing experience-driven on our microlearning platform coupled with a plug and play cloud Lab. IA Labs equips the aspirants with the right skills and attitude to be successful in the newage digital world."

Blended learning programmes by Sommet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Sommet Education, worldwide hospitality education group encompassing the highly reputed education institutions — Glion Institute of Higher Education, Les Roches and Ecole Ducasse — is reinforcing its study portfolio with a wide range of flexible learning solutions including blended learning programs. New Bachelor students are offered the possibility of a full first semester on-line or par-

tially at home and on campus.

These curriculum options enable students to start the next Bachelor intake in March 2021 remotely while providing an efficient solution to travel restrictions and sanitary situation.

Sommet Education group has created a unique learning solution available at Glion Institute of Higher Education and Les Roches entitled "Glion Connect" and "Les Roches Connect".

Through the blended learning solution, Bachelor students have two remote learning options. They have the possibility to study 10 weeks at home followed by 10 weeks on campus to complete the first semester or to study 20 weeks at home and complete their first semester remotely. The learning outcomes equal to a first semester spent fully on campus.

Within the programme students also have the opportunity to start their

internship in Semester 2 as usual or postpone it to a later date and pursue directly with an academic semester.

The blended learning solution provides students with the level of flexibility necessary to adapt their needs and the current circumstances. All participating students receive a welcome package with necessary essentials to use along with the mix of live tutorials, videos, as well as one-to-one coaching.

Scholarships on offer

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Recognising the intellectual talent of meritorious students, GNIOT Group of Institutions, Greater Noida has announced scholarships worth ₹10 crores.

The institute is inviting applications from students to avail scholarships across different academic courses viz. PGDM, MBA, MCA, BTech, MTech, BBA, BCA and BCom. For those seeking admission in BTech programmes, scholarships are being offered to stu-

dents based on their performance in Class XII and JEE-Main. For those seeking admission in PGDM & MBA, scholarship are being offered to the students based on their performance in graduation and CAT, MAT, XAT, GAT etc.

Dr Arun Kumar Singh, Director GNIOT Institute of Management Studies emphasized on flagship programme and said they are on a task to equip students with appropriate skills & practical exposure through internships and training.

Shift to Lifetime learning

Digital as a way of life is here to stay. In the education sector, on-campus learning will move to a more blended approach, says HARJIV SINGH



A thought-provoking experiment centred round the future of college education got underway in the Spring of 2013 at Stanford University. Inspired by the new emphasis on online learning, the Stanford 2025 Project, explored how different universities, students and teachers would approach the 'in-person, physical learning environment' a decade from then by 'bringing an end to a society of alumni in favour of a lifetime of learning'.

A year since COVID-19 upended everything including education, the Stanford study with its emphasis on modular, personalised, and collaborative learning across space and time seems nothing short of prophetic. Not only has 2020 compelled a change on the ground in who is learning online, where, and how, but it has also brought into focus key questions about education.

But if the past year is anything to go by, it is clear higher education can no longer be sought in the same in-person, four-year on campus module, which has dominated the US for decades.

For one, college education, especially at any Ivy League school, is extremely expensive. An undergrad, on-campus degree can put a family back by about \$70,000 a year in annual fees. During an economic downturn, made worse by a pandemic, such an investment makes no short-term or long-term economic sense. Add to this mix, the grim reality of student debt, estimated to be \$1.7 trillion held by more than 43 million borrowers.

Even if a student loan cancellation by the Federal Government comes through and the current impasse caused by rising COVID cases is stemmed by mass vaccination in the coming months, we know it will take the world a few years to bounce back.

Irrespective of whether and to what extent restrictions on social interactions will be lifted, digital as a way of life is here to stay. In the education sector, on-campus learning will move to a more blended approach.

As if to confirm that shift, the eight Ivy League schools have broken with tradition to offer several hundred short-term online courses across multiple

There are several platforms that can play a pivotal role in serving as a bridge between student and universities, by helping the former choose a college that best fits his profile and interests, smoothening the path towards enrolling in a short-term, high-value course

online platforms such as Coursera and EdX.

Spanning a range of subjects from Computer Science and Data Science to Health, Medicine and Education, these courses offer students the rare opportunity to learn and interact with some of the best faculty in the world, from the comfort of their home, at a fraction of the cost they would have incurred from an in-person, on-campus degree.

In being among some of the oldest and well-endowed universities, the Ivy League schools can rope in top-notch speakers from across disciplines and walks of life, including heads of states, presidents, and Nobel laureates. Opting to take short-term courses at any of these schools provides students with stellar exposure, hard to replicate outside the university system.

With this experience under their belt, students will find it easier to set themselves up for success. This is because as indicated by the Stanford project, exposure to one or multiple courses at any of the Ivy League schools will introduce them to an alternate idea of living and learning. It will no longer seem imperative to

enrol in a multi-year, on-campus programme to attain a degree.

Instead, students will understand that learning is a lifelong project punctuated by time spent away in the workplace, to learn by doing, along with a return when required to college to further embellish domain knowledge.

But how are students to choose from the plethora of courses that are now widely available? There are several platforms that can play a pivotal role in serving as a bridge between students and universities, by helping students and their families choose the college that best fits a student's profile and interests, smoothening the path towards enrolling in a short-term, high-value course.

It can help students think through what they want to learn, by planning early, identifying the disciplines they have a proclivity for, zeroing in on which colleges they want to go to and connecting universities in turn with this cohort of prospective students.

Change is always hard. But as history has shown us, each shift provides us with new opportunities to grow, adapt and evolve. The writer is founder-CEO, BrainGain Global

‘Cracking NDA is not a Herculean task’

If you are looking to join National Defence Academy this year, it is important to not only know the syllabus but also keep a few key pointers in mind, says SHISHIR DIXIT

If you are wanting and aspiring to finish up your preparation of National Defence Academy (NDA) it is important to know what the syllabus is. It comprises of two sections — Mathematics and General Ability.

To smartly and effectively prepare one must keep in sync with certain tips and pointers to prepare for both the exams simultaneously with maximum efficiency to get the desired output.

■ The sooner, the better is the mantra to achieve success herein. Whatever topics are common for both can be given a priority on a first hand basis with proper time and efficiency as this will definitely save your time and keep you ahead and for the rest of the portions to mix and match and cover equal portions on a daily basis to reduce monotony.

■ Following a regular and structured study plan is must for even the brightest of students as this will be very helpful and critical to meet out your dual preparation needs because it is very important to chew better than to bite more meaning sustaining all the knowledge is more important with prioritising so that you move in a progressive manner with your preparations with a strategy and planned approach.

■ Keeping stress at bay is paramount as regular breaks and naps break the monotony and increase the efficiency of learning and retaining. Also indulging in some physical activity will keep you fresh and ready.

■ Solving mock tests, giving online exams, attending video lectures and discussion forums shall definitely provide you with a vast array of opportunities for preparation and help you to understand and prepare better for both of the exams keeping in mind the competition and difference in syllabus of both the exams so it is very important to discuss and understand the strategy, get your doubts cleared and be prepped fully.

■ For the Mathematics portion as it is important and crucial for both the exams so writing and penning down formulas along with practicing two-three sets of practice papers regularly will make it very easy for the candidates to memorise, cover the entire syllabus and solve the questions efficiently with ease of time and speed.



Shishir Dixit
Founder-director, Centurion Defence Academy

■ Always prepare easy topics first then proceed with the tougher and time taking ones for both the exams so that you achieve a precise and calculated planning and preparation strategy by giving ample time to prepare the tougher and difficult parts for both the exams.

■ Following a holistic approach is definitely recommended to cover all the subjects and prepare simultaneously for both of the exams as the General Ability Test of the NDA comprising questions from English, Science, Social Studies and General Awareness is pretty much the syllabus for Boards too so a common prep mode is the ground of preparation for both of these exams.

■ Focusing on basics and solving previous year question papers will definitely help in analysing the common ground syllabus as well as the distinctive syllabus preparation for both the exams which will help in identifying the strong and weaker areas for the candidates. This will definitely clear the basic concepts of the students and help them memorize better with greater efficiency.

■ Last but not the least to revise repeatedly and dedicatedly with ample practice hours will only be the deciding factor for preparation of any exam be it NDA and Boards.

Colleges and universities around the world have unique preferences and requirements for admission — topics for personal statements, volunteer experience, personal references and score requirements, to name a few. And when it comes to score requirements, a crucial part of the application process for international students is an English-language assessment to ensure they are prepared for the rigor of English communication in academic classrooms.

How do students choose which test to take to satisfy this requirement?

When it comes to convenience, the TOEFL test offers multiple options for students, whether they prefer to test in person

at a test centre or from the comfort of home. The TOEFL iBT test is the only major English-language test with a long-term option to take the same test — with regards to quality, reliability, validity, security and score acceptance - in a test centre or at home.

Though the pandemic has created uncertainty for in-person testing, the majority of test centers across India are currently open for testing. ETS is working closely with our authorized test service provider in India to continue opening testing locations as it is safe to do so, while taking the necessary precautions (e.g., distancing work stations and sanitizing high-touch areas) to maintain the safety of students while testing.

The ETS launched the TOEFL iBT Special

MINDIT

Home Edition, a test that is identical in content, format, on-screen experience and scoring to the in-person TOEFL iBT testing experience. This was initially developed to support students while traditional testing was suspended and to enable them to take active steps to achieve their educational goals despite the circumstances.

However, as we adapt to the future of digital learning, where blended learning opportunities are becoming increasingly more relevant and preferred, we've recognised the need for the at home test to be a continuing

product in our portfolio. Renamed TOEFL iBT Home Edition, the at home test is here to stay.

Because the TOEFL iBT Home Edition is the same test as the TOEFL iBT test given at a test centre, scores are being accepted by institutions in the same way. More than 11,000 institutions in over 150 countries worldwide accept TOEFL scores.

In addition, the TOEFL test is accepted at 100 per cent of institutes in the US, Canada, U.K., Ireland, Australia and New Zealand, as well as universally by English taught programmes in non-English speaking

countries worldwide.

TOEFL scores than all other English-language tests combined. Institutions around the world rely on and prefer the TOEFL iBT test because it is specifically designed for the higher ed sector — the test is made up of 100% academic content, meaning the types of questions students will encounter on test day simulate the communication experiences they will encounter at university.

While preparing to study abroad, not only is it important to consider the requirements for university admission, but also any immigration requirements for one's selected destination.

While the pandemic has created unprecedented times for students across the

world, it does not have to stop the momentum of their educational journeys — and ETS is striving in every way to ensure that it doesn't.

By taking the TOEFL test, students can take active steps to pursue their dreams, stand out during the application process and feel confident knowing that they are prepared for an exciting, rewarding journey ahead of them.

For more information on the TOEFL test, including information on acceptance, registration, test prep and more, check out www.ets.org/toefl.

For information specific to TOEFL iBT Home Edition, please visit www.ets.org/toefl/athome.



The faculty of Science at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, for the 2021/2022 academic year, invites applications for its scholarships of between £3,000 - £5,000 that are available to new international students.

Value: £3,000- £5,000.

Subject: Chemistry, Computer and information sciences, Mathematics and statistics, Pharmacy and biomedical sciences, Physics.

Eligibility: Candidates must: Be a new, international fee-paying student holding an offer of admission for either year one, or year two entry, to a full-time undergraduate degree in the Faculty of Science for the 2021/2022 academic year.

Have achieved excellent grades to date in their academic studies. Be self-funded. Students who receive full scholarships, for example from a government office or embassy, will not be eligible.

For further information visit: <https://www.strath.ac.uk/study-withus/scholarships/sciencescholarships/facultyofscienceundergraduatescholarshipsforinternationalstudents202021/> or contact science-scholarships@strath.ac.uk

Application deadline: The last date to apply is July 31, 2021.

The Centurion Defence Academy launches Shishir Rameshwar National Talent Hunt (SRNTH) 2021-22 scholarship programme for top 400 NDA

aspirants across the country. This exam has been launched for admissions to the TARGET NDA-I-2021 TEJAS batch (Offline/Online).

The exam will be conducted on January 16, 2021 through an online mode. This time up to 100 per cent scholarship will be provided to a total of 400 candidates based on their scores for enrollment. This exam will comprise of two rounds namely written as well as the interview from rank 1-50 and only upon attempt and successful clearance of both the rounds, the candidates would be liable to receive the scholarship.

Applicants can register for the Scholarship Exam through the Centurion Defence Academy Student app. One can download the app from the Play store where thousands of students have already enrolled themselves and getting education and training through the E-Media Interface especially in this pandemic era where it was all the more mandatory to expand the possibilities without compromising with the future of the candidates.

The exam pattern for NDA, 2021 will be set in English and Hindi. A total timestamp of 90 minutes will be provided with a total of 100 questions. No negative marking. Questions will be based on NDA pattern. These questions will be further classified as follows-

English- 25 questions
Mathematics- 30 questions
General Science (PCB)- 30 questions
Polity, History and Geography- 15 questions.

Application deadline: It is January 15, 2021.

DIGITAL MARKETING AT MUTAGEN

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6732471
Deadline: January 20, 2021

QUALITY CHECK AT GREYNODES

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹7,000-₹9,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6732472
Deadline: January 20, 2021

PROJECT COORDINATION AT SIMPLEPLAN MEDIA

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹13,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6732473
Deadline: January 20, 2021

CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT AT PENPENCIL

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹8,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6732477
Deadline: January 19, 2021

SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING AT DARPAN STUDIO

Location: Lucknow, Delhi, Gorakhpur, Jaipur, Ludhiana
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6732479
Deadline: January 20, 2021

CONTENT WRITING AT THE LAST PLUG

Location: Bhubaneswar
Stipend: ₹3,000-₹5,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/6732482
Deadline: January 19, 2021

FRESHER JOBS PATENT RESEARCH ASSOCIATE AT CRIMSON INSIGHTS TECHNOLOGIES

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹4-₹6 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/6732485
Deadline: January 29, 2021
Skill(s) required: MS-Word

STUDY ABROAD

‘Students get attracted to study MBBS abroad’

There are several reasons why many aspirants have chosen to study medicine abroad, says VED PRAKASH BENIWAL

A New Year is a beginning of a new chapter, new hopes and new aspirations. Year 2020 has not been good for each one of us. As 2021 approaches, we all wish a good start and better forever.

Considering the fact that the pandemic had hit in 2020 and affected all the sectors including the education, this year is expected to open more opportunities for the students. For instance, medical aspirants are given conditional exemption to take admissions abroad in their desired universities even if they could not qualify NEET in 2020 and qualify NEET in 2021, the JEE to be held four times a year starting 2021 onwards. With an opportunity to reappear NEET in 2021, the students have the benefit to save a year. Many students

have opted for MBBS abroad admissions in their desired universities simultaneously aiming to give one more try for NEET. If they score good marks, they may get a seat in India else they have already started their study of medicine in universities abroad thereby saving a year.

Another factor that has added to their hope and confidence is that the universities offering MBBS abroad have offered the instalment plan to students for paying their fees. This has not only lessened the financial burden of parents but also boosted up the morale of the students.

Some universities have reduced their first year tuition fee to 50 per cent, others have offered scholarships to meritorious students, while many of them have permitted the students to pay fee in instalments. Pocket friendly medical education abroad is a better return on investment. No one can deny the benefits aligned with MBBS abroad.

The writer is director, Jagvimal Consultants

IN BRIEF

NEED TO HAVE CUSTOMISED TAILOR-MADE PLANS

India is currently witnessing a boom in the edTech sector due to COVID-19. Our dependency has increased on online education to maintain continuity and provide uninterrupted learning. Speaking about the impact of the pandemic Chandras Panigrahi, co-

founder-CEO, Edukemy, said: "The pandemic has been a watershed moment for India's edtech sector. The lockdown and fear of COVID-19 has taken schools, colleges, and educational institutions online. The quantity of online content has increased in the recent

months but there is still a gap in terms of quality of content, tailored plans and performance tracking. EdTech startups like Edukemy aims to bridge the gaps, customise tailored plans for students and develop a uniform and graded strategy for evaluation."

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EOI)

No.SSA/CW/Misc/350/2010/PU/3973 Date : 12.01.2021
Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam invites Expression of Interest (EOI) through e-procurement process from Private/ Public limited company or LLP /partnership Agency registered in India with expertise in cloud-based Artificial Intelligence and mobile technologies to Create Comprehensive a Digital platform for tracking and inspection of civil works across Assam. To participate in this EOI through e-procurement, applicant should have valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of class-II (minimum) and have to register in the portal <https://assamtenders.gov.in> by themselves.

The applicants who have downloaded the EOI schedules containing the tender details, terms and conditions, from the website shall submit their tender on-line on the website <https://assamtenders.gov.in>, with proof of payment of non refundable tender fee of Rs. 5000/- (Rupees five thousand) only in the form of demand draft/Bankers Cheque drawn in favour of Mission Director, Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Kahilipara, Guwahati-19, Assam and payable at Guwahati. The EOI should be submitted on-line as per date and time of submission as per prescribed schedule.

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

Janasanyog /CF/3860/20

Bumrah out of Brisbane Test

Jasprit sustains abdominal strain; Agarwal, Ashwin participation also in doubt



Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah reacts during Day 4 of 3rd Test

PTI ■ SYDNEY

The injury-ravaged Indian team was dealt another telling blow on Tuesday as pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah was ruled out of the fourth Test against Australia due to an abdominal strain.

If that wasn't enough, Mayank Agarwal — tipped to be Hanuma Vihari's replacement in the playing XI in Brisbane — has sustained a knock on the hands and it could be a hairline fracture.

To make matters worse, Ravichandran Ashwin's back spasms have aggravated after battling for three hours on the final day, leaving little options

for India on the bench.

Bumrah, key to India's attack, sustained the strain during the drawn third Test in Sydney.

It has been learnt that Bumrah's scan reports showed a strain and the Indian team management does not want him to aggravate the injury, keeping in mind the upcoming four-Test series against England.

"Jasprit Bumrah suffered an abdominal strain while fielding in Sydney. He is going to sit out of the Brisbane Test but is expected to be available against England," a BCCI source told PTI.

While the Indian team

India's injury list which affected Oz Tour

ISHANT SHARMA

The senior pacer suffered a left side strain after playing only one match in the IPL in September and after that was ruled out of the Australia series. Ishant got bowling fit before the series but needed more overs under his belt before taking on the rigours of Test cricket. He has just returned to competitive cricket for Delhi with the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy and will be selected against England in Tests.

BHUVNESHWAR KUMAR

The white-ball specialist and reserve pacer of the Test team injured his right hamstring during an IPL game and had to undergo an extensive rehabilitation programme which led to him missing the Australia series in full. He has just returned to action with the Mushtaq Ali T20 for UP and will be back in national team for England series.

VARUN CHAKRAVARTHY

One of the finds of the IPL, Kolkata Knight Rider's Varun Chakravarty was a left-field selection in the Indian T20 team but the old national selection committee with interim chairman Sunil Joshi didn't think he was playing with a serious shoulder injury which

ruled him out of his maiden national tour.

ROHIT SHARMA

Perhaps the most high-profile left hamstring injury that happened during the IPL. The Mumbai Indians skipper played through pain in the final but was ruled out of the white ball series against Australia. Due to hard quarantine of 14 days in Sydney, Rohit, despite being fit, couldn't play the first two Tests and was back in action from Sydney where he hit a half-century in the second innings.

MOHAMMED SHAMI

India's craftiest pace bowler sustained a fractured forearm while trying to fend a short ball from Pat Cummins in the Adelaide Test and was then ruled out of the remaining three Tests. He is doubtful for the first two Tests against England at home as well.

UMESH YADAV

The senior India pacer hobbled out of the field during Australia's second innings with a calf muscle injury and will soon be at the National Cricket Academy in Bengaluru for a rehabilitation programme. There is a chance he might be back for the England series next month.

KL RAHUL

After a decent outing in the white ball leg, KL Rahul sustained a wrist injury while batting at the Melbourne Cricket Ground nets and was sent back to India to recuperate before the England series. His departure led to India's back-up middle-order being next to nil.

RAVINDRA JADEJA

India's premier all-rounder received a knock on his left thumb from a short delivery bowled by Mitchell Starc in Sydney and scans revealed dislocation as well as thumb fracture. He will be out for at least a couple of months, ruling him out of the England home series as well.

RISHABH PANT

The keeper-batsman received a knock in the left elbow from Pat Cummins and couldn't keep wickets in the second innings in Sydney. However, it was not a fracture and played after popping in a lot of painkillers which provided him initial relief. He will play in Brisbane in the fourth Test.

HANUMA VIHARI

The hero of the Sydney Test, after his epic 161-ball

vigil, has a serious hamstring injury (grade 2) and will be out of the fourth Test in Brisbane as well as the following series against England.

RAVICHANDRAN ASHWIN

The man who has bowled more than 134 overs in the series, most by an Indian bowler, is suffering from back spasms and found it difficult to even sleep or tie his boot laces. With medication and physiotherapy sessions, India will expect their senior-most bowler on the park in Brisbane.

MAYANK AGARWAL

Having failed in the first two Tests, Agarwal was dropped in Sydney and who would have known that during a net session, he would get hit on the gloves and taken for scans. He was supposed to replace Hanuma Vihari and if it's a bruise, Agarwal is expected to play through pain.

JASPRIT BUMRAH

He suffered an abdominal strain during the late evening on the third day while chasing a ball to the boundary. He didn't come out and bowl his spells but it has been learnt that he is in considerable discomfort and will sit out of the next Test in Brisbane.

My leadership wasn't good enough: Paine

PTI ■ SYDNEY

Australian captain Tim Paine on Tuesday apologised for his on-field behaviour during the drawn third Test against India, saying that his leadership wasn't good enough and he ended up "looking like a fool" by sledging R Ashwin.

Paine has come under fire for a verbal duel with Ashwin when the Indian held vigil with an injured Hanuma Vihari to eke out a draw for his team. Paine said he was "distracted, agitated and a bit grumpy at times" during the game.

"I spoke to him (Ashwin) really quickly after the game yesterday, as I said to him, look I ended up looking a fool, didn't I? You open your mouth and then you drop a catch and had a bit of laugh about that," he said at a virtual press conference on Monday.

"...I do want to apologise for the way I went about things yesterday on someone who prides himself on the way I lead this team and yesterday was a poor reflection of that," Paine said.

The 36-year-old wicket-keeper dropped three catches during the match, including of Vihari after the confrontation with

Ashwin. Paine conceded that it was the pressure of the game that got to him and that affected his mood.

"My leadership wasn't good enough, I let the pressure of the game, I suppose get to me and it sort of affected my mood and then from there affected my performance," he elaborated.

"So, yesterday when I came off the ground, my reflection was purely on my wicket-keeping...I think I said to my players, I had a really poor game as a leader, not so much as a captain, but certainly as a leader.

"...Yesterday I fell short of my expectations and our team's standard," he added.

According to Paine, his behaviour on Monday wasn't a reflection of the way he wants to lead the Australian team.

"So, I want to apologise for the mistakes that I have made yesterday. Certainly, as I said, not a reflection of the way I want to lead this team.

"We have set really high standards over the last 18 months and yesterday was certainly a bit of blip on the radar and something I felt I needed to come out and address," he asserted.

'Smith wasn't scuffing Pant's guard mark'

Sydney: Australian skipper Tim Paine on Tuesday defended Steve Smith, who was accused of scuffing up the guard mark of Rishabh Pant during the drawn third Test, asserting that the Indian team would have raked up the issue if any wrong was committed.

Smith, a former Australia captain, was seen scuffing up the batsman's guard during drinks break in the first session on Monday.

"I have spoken to Steve about this and I know he is really disappointed with the way it has come across. And if you watch Steve Smith play Test cricket, that is something that

he does every single game five or six times a day," Paine said.

Paine said had Smith changed the guard marks, the Indian team would have taken up the issue.

"Smith was certainly not changing guard and imagine if he was, then the Indian players would have kicked up a bit of stink (at) that time," he said.

"But that is something I have seen Steve doing many a times in Test matches and Shield games that I have played with him, when he is in the field, he likes to sort of walk up to where he bats and visualise how is he going to play," Paine elaborated.

PTI

SINGLES

KOHLI LOSES 2ND SPOT TO SMITH IN RANKINGS

KARACHI: India skipper Virat Kohli was on Tuesday pushed to the third spot by Australian batsman Steve Smith in the ICC Test rankings for batsmen but middle-order batsman Cheteshwar Pujara gained two places to be number eight. Kohli has 870 points in the latest chart, issued on Tuesday. Smith (900 points) is placed second behind Kiwi skipper Kane Williamson (919), who reach the best ever-rating points by a New Zealand player and consolidate his position at the top. Pujara, whose dogged half-centuries (50, 77) in the third Test helped India draw the match, is placed eighth, just behind his stand-in skipper Ajinkya Rahane, who lost one place.

BENGAL, MAHA WIN IN MUSTAQ ALI MATCH

KOLKATA: Opener Vivek Singh hammered a 64-ball 100 to star in Bengal's 16-run win over Jharkhand in an Elite Group B match of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 tournament on Tuesday. Bengal rode on left-handed Singh's stroke-filled century to make 161 for 6 in 20 overs. Singh's knock was studded with 13 fours and 3 sixes. In another match in the group, Hyderabad pulled off a six-run win over Odisha. In Vadodara, Kedar Jadhav and Naushad Shaikh struck unbeaten fifties as Maharashtra defeated Chhattisgarh by eight wickets in their Elite Group C game. Chhattisgarh posted a mammoth 192 for five on the board, but Jadhav (84 off 45 balls) and Naushad Shaikh (78 off 44 balls) made light work of the opposition bowlers and ensured that their team emerged triumphant.

RANJI FROM FEB IN 'MUSHTAQ-LIKE BUBBLE'

NEW DELHI: The Indian cricket board is all set to organise a curtailed Ranji Trophy tournament from next month, and in all likelihood, in the same six bio-bubbles created for the ongoing Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. A decision with regards to this will be taken during the virtual BCCI Apex Council Meeting on January 17. There are seven items on the agenda and right at the top of the list is domestic cricket, which also includes junior and women's categories. The logic behind having the same bio-bubbles is that it's already set and will be more convenient for operational purposes.

2021 F1 SEASON TO START IN BAHRAIN

LONDON: The start of the F1 season has been delayed a week and will start in Bahrain after the Australian Grand Prix was postponed from March to November because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Australian race in Melbourne, initially set to open the season on March 21, has been rescheduled to November 21 with F1 organizers citing "the ongoing situation regarding Covid-19". The Chinese Grand Prix has also been postponed but no new date has been set for the race. The season will start with the Bahrain Grand Prix on March 28 at Sakir, less than four months after the same venue held two races as part of the 2020 season.

LIVERPOOL VS MAN UTD IN FA CUP 4TH ROUND

MANCHESTER: Manchester United will face Liverpool in the blockbuster tie of the FA Cup fourth round, while League Two Cheltenham host Manchester City. Liverpool and United will clash for two consecutive weekends with the top two also facing off in the Premier League on Sunday. National League North side Chorley's reward for their victory over a depleted Derby was a home tie with Premier League Wolves. Should Chorley pull off another upset, they could face holders Arsenal in the fifth round. League Two Crawley, who thrashed Leeds 3-0 in the third round fixture, travel to Bournemouth. The fourth round ties will be played across the weekend of January 22 to 25 with the fifth round taking place between February 9 to 11.

Agencies



India all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja posts picture on his Twitter account with caption "Out of action for a while. surgery completed. But will soon return with a bang!"

CA delay call on Pucovski's fitness

Sydney: Cricket Australia on Tuesday said it will delay making a decision on Will Pucovski's availability for the fourth and final Test against India, giving the opener every opportunity to prove his fitness as he recovers from a partial dislocation of his shoulder.

CA confirmed that Pucovski suffered a "shoulder subluxation injury", which is a partial dislocation of the shoulder joint, when the ball of the upper arm

bone partly comes out of the socket in the shoulder.

"He will continue rest and rehabilitation over the next two days before a decision is made on his fitness for the fourth Vodafone Test match," a CA spokesperson told *cricket.Com.Au*. The 22-year-old had hurt his right shoulder after diving for the ball at mid-wicket in the 86th over of

India's innings on the fifth day of the drawn Sydney Test on Monday. PTI



Saina, Prannoy test Covid negative hours after +ve results, cleared for Thailand Open

PTI ■ BANGKOK

Indian shuttlers Saina Nehwal and HS Prannoy were cleared to compete in the Thailand Open after they tested negative for Covid-19, invalidating their previous positive results that forced them out of the tournament hours earlier on a chaotic Tuesday.

Both the Badminton World Federation (BWF) and Badminton Association of India (BAI) confirmed the development.

"Both Saina Nehwal and HS Prannoy have been cleared to participate in the ongoing Yonex Thailand Open after the fourth-round tests reports confirmed that both shuttlers have been tested negative for Covid-19," BAI said in a statement.

The national body said it was possible after the national body took up the matter with BWF.

"BAI have taken up the matter with topmost BWF officials to ensure if tests were negative, matches for respective players should be rescheduled and no walkover is given," BAI added.

Earlier in the day, chaos gripped India's campaign at the tournament when Olympic medallist Saina was forced out following a positive Covid-19 test, while Prannoy's participation hung in balance after his sample came out negative following a positive result in a bizarre turn of



events.

Former Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap too was forced to withdraw "due to close proximity" with wife and fellow shuttler Saina.

But the day ended on a better note for the Indians following the two shuttlers' clearance.

"BWF and Badminton Association of Thailand (BAT) can confirm three of the four players who tested positive for Covid-19 earlier today at the Asian Leg of the HSBC BWF World Tour have been



Former world number one

shuttler Kidambi Srikanth got a bloody nose after undergoing multiple Covid-19 tests and miffed at the poor treatment of health officials at Thailand Open, the Indian on Tuesday called it "unacceptable".

"We take care of ourselves for the match not to come and shed blood for THIS. However, I gave 4 tests after I have arrived and I can't

Srikanth's nose bleeds after virus tests

PTI ■ BANGKOK

say any of them have been pleasant. Unacceptable," an upset Srikanth wrote on his Twitter handle.

The 27-year-old, who is scheduled to open his campaign on Wednesday against fellow Indian Verma, shared photographs of his nose bleeding after he was tested for the fourth time.

The Badminton World Federation (BWF) said Srikanth is being attended to by a doctor and it is awaiting a medical explanation.

clear to take their place in the draw," the apex body said.

"They are confirmed as Saina Nehwal (India), HS Prannoy (India), and Jones Ralfy Jansen (Germany)," BWF added in its statement. The BWF said the said players who had earlier tested positive for the virus, are "not currently infected".

The matches will be rescheduled for Saina and Parupalli Kashyap for Wednesday. However, Kashyap's participation will depend on the result of his test conducted in the afternoon.

Regarding Prannoy, the BWF had said he would be retested after conflicting reports came out of earlier samples.

Team India denied basic facilities in Brisbane hotel

from here on.

"There was no room service or house keeping facilities. The gym is very basic and not of international standards and the swimming pool can't be accessed. This wasn't what they were promised when they checked in," a senior BCCI source told PTI.

India will be playing the fourth Test in the Queensland capital from January 15 where the surge of Covid-19 cases and a border lockdown with New South Wales has led to a strict hotel quarantine for the Ajinkya Rahane-led team.

Asked if the players were being allowed to mingle, the Board source said: "Yes, they have been provided with a team room and are allowed to meet each other inside the hotel."

When asked whether the team had protested with the hotel authorities, the source said: "When the manager enquired about how these things are not being taken care of, all they said was, 'the rule applies to both Indian and Australian teams. There is no one team that has been subjected to hard quarantine rules.'"

PTI

Ankita in final round of Aus Open qualifiers

Melbourne: India's top-ranked woman player Ankita Raina moved to the final round of the Australian Open Qualifiers with a gutsy three-set win over world number 118 Katarina Zavatska but it was curtains for Ramkumar Ramanathan in the men's singles.

In the women's singles qualifiers being held in Dubai, the 180th ranked Ankita overcame a second-set lapse to win 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 in the second round against the Ukrainian.

She will next take on 20-year-old Serbian Olga Danilovic, ranked 183. It will be the first meeting between the two players.

It is Ankita's sixth attempt



to crack the singles main draw of a Grand Slam and she is now just one win away from creating history.

In the men's singles being held in Doha, Ramkumar lost his second round 3-6, 2-6 to Chinese Taipei's Tung-Lin Wu in 69 minutes.

PTI

Sindhu, Praneeth lose on return

Bangkok: World champion P V Sindhu suffered a shock defeat on her return to international badminton, losing in three games to Denmark's Mia Blichfeldt in the opening round of YONEX Thailand Open Super 1000 event here on Tuesday.

Months after the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted the international calendar, Sindhu, seeded sixth, returned to action with a 21-16, 24-26, 13-21

defeat to world No 18 Blichfeldt in a 74-minute battle.

In men's singles, world No 13 B Sai Praneeth too suffered a straight game loss to Thailand's Kantaphon Wangcharoen on his return to competition.

Frontrunner to represent India at the Olympics, Praneeth went down 16-21, 10-21 to the world No 15 Wangcharoen for only his second loss to the

Thailand player.

Earlier in the day, the Indian mixed doubles pair of Satwik and Ashwini claimed a 21-11, 27-29, 21-16 win over the Indonesian pair of Hafiz Faizal and Gloria Widjaja.

However, the women's doubles pair of Ashwini and N Sikki Reddy couldn't cross the opening hurdle, going down 16-21, 7-21 to fourth seeded Korean pair of Kim So Yeong and Kong Hee Yong.

PTI