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

SPORT 12
MAN UTD GO TOP OF
PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE

NEW DELHI, THURSDAY JANUARY 14, 2021; PAGES 12 ₹3

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CYRUS
CHALLENGED
HIS FEARS
10 VIVACITY

Inoculation sites reduced by half

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

"The Centre asked us to reduce the vaccine centres. Now we have reduced it from 511 to 350. The Centre said, 'Don't be in haste,'" Maharashtra Health Minister Rajesh Tope told the media. In Mumbai, the number of sites has been reduced from 72 to 50. The numbers have been slashed in Pune also, now vaccination will take place only in 39 sites.

The authorities are hoping to finish the vaccination of 30 crore people belonging to high-risk groups within six months

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



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

Vaccination trial on local population must for jabs' nod in India

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

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

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

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

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

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to achieve a critical mass of vaccinated people with around 3 crore health workers and corona warriors to get the shots in the first phase beginning January 13.

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

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

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

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

Bhubaneswar, Jaipur, Chennai and Lucknow.

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

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

Continued on Page 2

copies of the three agri laws, were burnt at the Singhu border alone.

Lohri is widely celebrated in Punjab and Haryana to mark the harvesting of rabi crops. People traditionally celebrate it by circling around bonfires, throwing food items — peanuts, puffed rice, popcorn, etc — into the fire, singing folk songs, dancing and feasting.

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

Several bonfires were lined up at the Delhi-Haryana border stretch, the nerve centre of

the farmers' agitation. The

protesting farmers raised

slogans, sang songs of resistance and hope as they orbited the bonfire, burning copies of farm laws and praying for the success of their protest.

Continued on Page 2

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

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"The celebrations can wait.

We will celebrate all these

festivals the day our demand of

repealing of these black laws are

met by the Centre," said 65-year

old Gurpreet Singh Sandhu

who hails from Haryana's

Karnal district.

"This Lohri is filled with

struggle," said Rajbir Singh, a

Continued on Page 2

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Trump's Indo-Pacific strategy aimed to contain China: Chinese official

Beijing: China on Wednesday said the Indo-Pacific strategy advocated by the outgoing Trump administration is aimed to "contain" Beijing, sabotage regional peace and stability and maintain US hegemony in the region.

The strong Chinese reaction came after a declassified US government document advocated a strong India as a "counterbalance" to the communist giant in the strategic Indo-Pacific region.

The document was recently declassified in part by US

National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien and now has been posted on the website of the White House.

"India's preferred partner on security issues is the United States. The two cooperate to preserve maritime security and counter Chinese influence in South and Southeast Asia and other regions of mutual concern. India maintains the capacity to counter border provocations by China," said the US Strategic Framework for the Indo-Pacific.

Replying to a question on

the release of the document, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here: "Some US politicians want to leave behind a legacy by declassifying the document." "...But its content only serves to expose the malign intention of the United States to use its Indo-Pacific strategy to suppress and contain China and undermine regional peace and stability," Zhao said.

In essence, this is a strategy of hegemony," he said. He said the US strategy "highlights the

Cold War mentality and military confrontation, which goes against the mutually-benificial spirit of regional cooperation, runs counter to regional people's aspiration for peace, stability and development, and threatens regional prospects of peace and development."

This US strategy should rightly be thrown into the dustbin of history, Zhao said.

"The US side is obsessed with ganging up, forming small cliques and resorting to despicable means such as wedge-driv-

ing, which fully exposed its true face as a trouble-maker undermining regional peace, stability, solidarity and cooperation," Zhao said.

China is committed to the path of peaceful development and a defence policy that is defensive in nature, he said.

"The Asia-Pacific is a region where Chinese and American interests are most tightly entwined and interact most frequently," Zhao said.

"We hope the US side will discard the Cold War zero

sum mentality, earnestly respect China's core interests and major concerns, strengthen communication and dialogue with China, properly manage differences and help make the Asia-Pacific a stage for mutually-beneficial cooperation instead of an arena for major power rivalry," he said.

China claims almost all of the South China Sea as its sovereign territory.

China has been building military bases on artificial islands in the region also

claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam. Beijing has impeded commercial activity like fishing or mineral exploration by countries like Vietnam and the Philippines, claiming that the ownership of territory belonged to China for hundreds of years.

Actions recommended by it are to counter Chinese predatory economic practices that freeze out foreign competition, undermine US economic competitiveness, and abet the Chinese Communist Party's aspiration to dominate the 21st century economy.

Another objective of the framework is to strengthen the capacity of emerging partners in South Asia, including the Maldives, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, to contribute to a free and open order.

PTI

Delhi Govt allows schools to reopen for Classes 10, 12 from January 18

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A head of the board examinations, students of classes 10 and 12 in the National Capital may join their school campuses from January 18 for practical works and other examination related preparations. Directorate of Education (DoE), Delhi Government on Wednesday allowed them via issuing an order stated only schools outside containment zones will be allowed to reopen, and students, teachers, and staff living in these zones will not be allowed to attend.

Notably, all Governments, semi-governments, private and government aided, corporataion schools have been physically shut since March last year in order to avoid the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic and this would be the first time after 10 months that students will return to their campuses.

In the circular, DoE said, "In order to conduct the activities pertaining to pre-board preparations and practical work, the head of government, aided and unaided recognised schools may call the students of classes 10 and 12 only to school with effect from January 18, 2021.

However, the child should be called to school only with the consent of parents, following the enclosed standard operating procedure.

Further, while the records of children coming to school be maintained, the same should not be used for attendance purposes as sending the child to school is completely optional for parents."

It is important to mention here that the schools have been asked not to hold any assembly and physical outdoor activities. The principals have been asked to guide children not to share books, copies and sta-

tionary items.

While the pre-board exams of Class 12 will be conducted between March 3 and April 15, for Class 10 they will be held between April 1 and April 15, the circular started.

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has already announced the timeline of practical and written examinations. While practical exams will begin from March 1, written exams will be conducted between May 3 and June 10.

To bring back students in equation amid the pandemic, the DoE has asked schools to provide emotional and trauma support to students and teachers upon their return to the campus however the schools have to maintain social distance of six feet, have staggered timings and maintain hygiene, among other Covid-19-appropriate guidelines already issued by the Government.

Man hangs self at his rented room

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 24-year-old man allegedly hanged himself at his rented room in east Delhi's New Ashok Nagar area on Wednesday.

The deceased has been identified as Ganesh Naik. Police said that he originally hailed from Odisha and worked as a tutor in Delhi.

According to Deepak Yadav, the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), East district, his room was found locked from the inside. "When police, with the help of locals, broke open the door, the man was found hanging from the ceiling fan with a nylon rope," said the DCP.

A suicide note was recovered from the spot and he did not blame anyone for his death but police teams are investigating the incident from all angles," said police.

50-year-old man shot dead in Jafrabad

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

A 50-year-old man was shot dead allegedly by two unidentified bike-borne criminals on Wednesday afternoon in northeast Delhi's Jafrabad area.

The deceased has been

identified as Raees Ansari. According to a senior police official, the information was received around 1 pm on Wednesday following which a police team was dispatched for the spot.

"It was found that the deceased was sitting outside his house when two unidentified persons have come there. They had some talks, following which one of them shot Ansari in his head. Later, they fled from the spot," said the senior police official.

"The deceased was taken to hospital where he was declared brought dead. A murder case has been registered. During

preliminary investigation, it seems to be a case of personal enmity. Police are checking all the CCTV footage of the area to identify the accused persons," he said.

"Ansari used to work as a property dealer and has a small shop of grocery in the area," said police.

SC issues notice...

From Page 1

"Issue notice. Since the clarification is on a Constitution Bench decision, it is appropriate that the Chief Justice issues orders to post this matter before a bench of five Judges. The Registry is directed to place the matter before the Chief Justice for appropriate orders," the bench said in its order. The AG said a clarification is needed in this regard from the top court on the applicability of the verdict in armed forces.

In a path-breaking verdict, a five-judge Constitution bench headed by the then CJi Dipak Misra unanimously struck down Section 497 (adultery) of the Indian Penal Code and declared that adultery is not a crime and the penal provision was unconstitutional as it denied the individuality of women and treated them as "chattel of husbands". The SC, in a Sept 2018 judgment, however had said adultery would continue to be a ground for seeking divorce in matrimonial disputes. The Centre, in its interim plea filed in a disposed of PIL of Joseph Shine, has sought clarification and a direction that the judgement be not made applicable on special statutes and rules governing the armed forces which take actions on its personnel for indulging in adulterous relationships to ensure discipline in forces.

NHAI inks pact with IRTE, IDC to promote road safety

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Central road making agency NHAI on Wednesday engaged with IRTE and IDC to promote road safety and collaborate in the areas of traffic management. Under the partnership, IRTE will support National Highways Authority of India to improve the functional aspects of road geometrics and ensure that Traffic Control Devices conform to IRC standards to achieve efficient, free and rapid flow of traffic.

"NHAI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with

the Institute for Road Traffic Education (IRTE) and Institute for Development and Communication, Chandigarh (IDC) to promote road safety and collaborate in the areas of traffic management through a programme titled 'Capacity building of Road Safety Management through the Safe Systems Approach Programme', NHAI said in a statement.

The MoU was signed in presence of NHAI Chairman Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, IRTE President Rohit Baluja, and other senior officials. IRTE will also support NHAI and its associated agencies in con-

ducting safety audit, traffic engineering surveys, developing and creating awareness programmes for schools, universities and general public, the statement said.

The MoU also includes development of a need-based data management system and a methodology of collection and recording of data with reference to accidents, enforcement, traffic volumes. It will also help to create specialised training programmes, tools and systems of training as well as provide basic training, road safety audit, accident investigation and traffic management, the statement said.

PTI

Minister Naik is conscious, recovering: GMCH Dean

Panaji: Union Minister Shripad Naik, admitted in a Goa hospital after he met with an accident, is conscious and recovering and has been taken off the ventilator, a top health official said on Wednesday evening.

In a medical bulletin, Dr Shivanand Bandekar, Dean of the Goa Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) where Naik has been admitted, said a team of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences was of the view that there was no need to shift him to Delhi.

In the morning, AIIMS doctors extubated Naik (removed the tube inserted to assist him in breathing) and he was put on High Flow Nasal Cannula (HFNC), Bandekar said. Naik's

Blood Pressure, pulse, urinary and blood parameters were normal, he was taking oral fluids and responding to all oral commands, the Dean said.

The AIIMS team was continuously monitoring Naik's progress along with GMCH doctors, he said.

Earlier in the day, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant had said that Naik was recovering and there was no need to shift him to New Delhi for further treatment. The AIIMS team led by Dr S Rajeshwari was "happy with the line of treatment", Sawant said.

Naik, the Union Minister of State for Defence and AYUSH, is conscious and speaking, he said.

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PTI

Dhoni's poultry...

From Page 1

Officials said that the infection does not spread among poultry, as it would have a high economic cost for the poultry farmers but it was found that many States are banning supply of poultry and poultry products from other States. As this would add to the negative impact on the poultry industry, the States were requested to reconsider such decision, it said. The Ministry has held a meeting with 17 States and asked to efficiently manage the spread of avian influenza in their respective States in accordance with the Action Plan 2021.

The Centre had constituted a committee comprising the Inspector General, the Deputy Inspector General of Forests and Wildlife, and a project scientist to monitor the handling of the avian flu situation by States. The committee held a meeting with all State chief wildlife wardens on Tuesday to take stock of the situation and ensure that Centre's advisory is being followed.

In a statement, the Ministry on Wednesday said that States were asked to ensure that the infection does not

spread among poultry, as it would have a high economic cost for the poultry farmers but it was found that many States are banning supply of poultry and poultry products from other States. As this would add to the negative impact on the poultry industry, the States were requested to reconsider such decision, it said. The Ministry has held a meeting with 17 States and asked to efficiently manage the spread of avian influenza in their respective States in accordance with the Action Plan 2021.

To deal with the situation, the States were asked to coordinate with the Dept of Health and Forest and sensitise them about the issue. States were asked to maintain sufficient supply of protective equipment and maintain bio-security measures in poultry farms," it said.

Mandatory...

From Page 1

If the couple did not intend so, the marriage officer has to solemnise their marriage forthwith without publication of 30 days notice, the court said.

A section of the Special Marriage Act, 1954, requires an inter-faith couple to give written notice of the marriage to the district marriage officer.

The court was considering a habeas corpus petition alleging that an adult girl is being detained against her wishes to marry her lover who belongs to a different religion. The judgement comes against the backdrop of a recent controversial law enacted by the Uttar Pradesh government which prohibits forcible conversion for the sake of marriage. The Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Ordinance, 2020, prohibits conversion of religion by marriage to be unlawful.

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Inoculation...

From Page 1

The vaccine will be stored in the regional vaccine centres at Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode from where it will be distributed to 133 centres. Giving details of the vaccination plans for Maharashtra, Health Minister Rajesh Tope said the State had already received 9.83 lakh doses of the total requirement of 17.5 lakh for the first phase.

Of these, 9.63 lakh vials were from SII and 20,000 from Bharat Biotech, the State Minister told reporters.

Responding to summons issued to him, Sameer had gone to the NCB's office on

Farmers...

From Page 1

"AIKSCC has appealed to all districts within 300 km of Delhi to mobilise thousands of tractors for the Republic Day Parade in Delhi. All should assemble at the borders a day before for the parade," said AIKSCC in a statement.

Along with the preparation for Mahila Kisan Diwas programme on January 18, Mahapadav are planned before Governors in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala from January 23 to 25, in Maharashtra from January 24 to 26 and in Odisha on January 23, stated the AIKSCC.

In a development that came a day after it arrested Ramkumar Tiwari, one of the brothers who own "Muchhad Paanwala" shop at Kemps corner in south Mumbai, in connection of cannabis-related drugs, the NCB called Sameer

150-metre-long...

From Page 1

He said it appears that proper engineering effort has gone in making the tunnel. "This shows the hand of the Pakistani establishment, deployed in the Shakarganj area opposite to Samba sector," he said. Flanked by other senior BSF officers, the IG BSF also supervised the ongoing operations and directed to troops to remain vigilant in the run up to the Republic day celebrations as attempts would be made from across the border to push

before starting construction work. According to the plan, work on redevelopment of Rajpath will start soon after this year's Republic Day parade. The work is expected to be completed in the next 10 months and the 2022 Republic Day parade will be held on a redeveloped Rajpath.

Central Vista...
From Page 1
The Heritage Conservation Committee on Monday gave its nod to the new Parliament project, after the Supreme Court asked the Centre to seek prior approval from the panel and other relevant authorities

In desi push...

From Page 1

IAF to sustain the fleet more efficiently and effectively due to availability of repair infrastructure at respective bases.

Underlining the importance of the decision, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in a message, "The CCS chaired

Kejriwal chairs review meeting on water supply

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



remaining colonies will be completed after eight months of getting demarcation and no objection certificate," the government said in a statement.

Speaking on the occasion, Kejriwal said, "We have to complete all the projects within the stipulated time frame. The project completion has to be ensured to provide relief to the people and also prevent the unnecessary expenditure of money. I want every Delhite to have access to 24x7 clean and safe water in the future."

The Chief Minister was also apprised about the status of utilisation of treated effluents like 70 MGD coronation pillar STP, 20 MGD Auchandi and Jauti Regulator projects and the recent joint inspection by YURB and DJB team.

Under the water project, a total of 580 unauthorised and authorised colonies of the PPP area and Sangam Vihar have been included, out of which 517 colonies have been connected with the water network. The remaining colonies will be connected by December 2021.

"There are a total of 1799 colonies in Delhi. Out of these, there are 260 colonies in East Delhi, out of which 256 colonies have been connected with a water network. The remaining colonies will be connected by December 2021.

"The panel with its focus on early childhood education and formal education ran through four key discussions - school starting age, pre-academic and social skills, addressing early learning gaps, and implementing NEP's recommendation of ensuring foundations and school readiness.

The panel had reverred education experts like Dr Divya Jalan, founder member of Action for Ability Development and Inclusion

(AADI), Sebastian Suggate (Germany), senior lecturer in education at the University of Regensburg, Tuuli Makinen (Finland), a preschool educator.

"In the context of New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Delhi Government should work on setting up a cadre of specially trained foundational stage teachers and make them the most important part of the school system," said Venita Kaul, professor and director of School of Education Studies and founder-director of Center for Early Childhood Education and Development (CECED), Ambedkar University at the session.

The session was moderated by Mythili Bector, teacher-former principal and present in-charge of Primary and

Free Covid vaccine for Delhiites: CM

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government on Wednesday announced that Covid-19 vaccine will be administered free of cost to the residents in the national Capital.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal said, "I am happy that the vaccine will start getting administered on January 16. We will provide free vaccine to the residents of Delhi if the Centre fails to do so."

"The vaccine will first be given to Corona warriors such as health and frontline workers. I hope that the struggle of the last year will come to an end and hope that people will get some relief from the Corona pandemic," he said.

The chief minister further said "I want to appeal to everyone to not spread any misin-

formation on the vaccine. I believe that the Central government along with the scientists have followed all protocols and safeguards before bringing this vaccine."

"I had appealed to the Central government that ours is a poor nation and a pandemic like this has hit the nation after 100 years, since 1918 when the Spanish Flu hit humankind. There are a lot of people who would not be able to afford the vaccine. I appealed to the Centre to provide free vaccine to all the people of the country. If the Centre fails to do it, the Delhi government will provide free vaccine to all the residents of Delhi," he added.

The city government has finalised 89 sites to roll out the COVID-19 vaccination drive in the national capital from January 16.

Family of Covid warrior gets ₹1 crore

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI



the people of Delhi.

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Wednesday handed a cheque of ₹1 crore to the family of late Dr Hitesh Gupta who died due to Covid-19 while being on duty.

While meeting the family of Dr Gupta at their residence, Kejriwal expressed his gratitude for his sacrifice for

1 crore as assistance; he said.

Kejriwal further said "Life can hold no monetary value but I hope that this compensation will help the family in long term. His wife belongs to a very educated background, she will also be provided a government job. We will try to help them in every possible way."

Surbhi Gupta, wife of Late Dr. Hitesh Gupta said, "I am grateful to CM Kejriwal for helping us at this need of hour. My husband was a Corona warrior. The Chief Minister has supported us and he has promised to us for taking care of us and help us in the future as well," she further added.

With ₹136.18 cr in surplus, NDMC presents Budget

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) on Wednesday presented a net positive and forward looking Budget with a moderate surplus of ₹136.18 crores in current financial year and ₹172.47 crores for financial year 2021-22 reflecting its commitment to a well governed and financially sustainable municipal body.

It further said that there are 383 colonies in West Delhi, out of which 359 colonies have been connected with the water network and the remaining colonies will be connected by March 2022," it said.

The Budget presented by NDMC Chairman Dharmendra has not proposed any new taxes for the next financial year in spite of a number of reliefs granted this year.

The civic body has also completed major projects like integrated command and control centre this year and series of projects for next financial year focusing on un-interrupted power supply, other civic services and strengthening its internal governance.

While addressing the media after presentation of Budget 2021-22 at NDMC Convention Centre, he said that, financial year 2020-21 commenced in an unprecedented manner with a complete national lockdown on account of global COVID-19 pandemic which, over the coming months only intensified followed by phase-wise unlocking process.

"I can say with confidence that NDMC has been successful in ensuring all municipal services in an un-interrupted manner befitting its leading persona among national local bodies," he said.

NDMC has listed number of measures taken to ensure un-interrupted services to its citizens during COVID times especially in health, sanitation and education. NDMC has taken its response and learning from COVID -19 challenge as

a take off point for its future development strategy to make NDMC, a shock-proof city.

"The concept plan for development work at K G Marg and Barakhamba Road will be developed and work will be taken up in FY 2021-22. Concept plan for development work at Mandi House circle has been prepared and this too will be taken up in 2021-22," he said.

The chairman said that the civic body has constructed three pink toilets as a special initiative for women which are in operation at Jeevan Bharti building on Parliament Street, factory road and super bazar at Outer CP. Four more such toilets will be taken up at SN Market, D Avenue and Safdarjung Hospital.

The work at AIIMS Green area and Nehru Park is in progress. Development of York Place circle at junction of Janpath and Moti Lal Nehru Marg is also under process and will be completed in 2021-22, he said, adding that more happiness areas in Rose Garden, Rail Bhawan, roundabout near Taj Mahal Singh Hotel etc and other suitable locations will be developed.

After bird flu cases were confirmed in a poultry farm in Panchkula in Haryana, the district administration has issued an advisory citing bird flu scare across the district.

However, bird flu infection has not been confirmed yet in the district, the officials said.

The chairman further said that NDMC has taken the services of School of Planning and Architecture- New Delhi to develop concept for NDMC as a cycle friendly city under Smart City Mission for the initiative as Cycle-in-City and identify more stretches for safe cycling by the commuters.

The officials claimed that there is no danger in eating well-cooked chicken or eggs because according to experts, this virus is killed at 70 degree temperature. The administration has also issued advisory for the poultry farms and people involved in the poultry business.

The advisory states that no person should come in direct contact with the chickens and use gloves or any other protective device. Do not touch birds' feathers and mucus. In case of touching due to any reason, immediately wash hands thoroughly with soap and keep chickens in the enclosure. Kill the infected birds safely.

On the other hand, Civil Surgeon Dr. Virender Yadav also explained to the officials concerned to prevent bird flu and gave them necessary guidelines on Wednesday.

The civil surgeon said that all the health workers must work actively in their respective fields and immediately inform the officials of the Animal Husbandry Department if any

Gurugram Admin issues advisory amid spread of bird flu

STAFF REPORTER ■ GURUGRAM



bird's accidental death is reported.

"Infections of the sick bird mucus and feathers can spread it to humans, although there has been no case of this disease spreading from birds to humans in India so far. Its main symptoms are the same as normal flu, which include breathing problems, high fever and cold," he said.

Mentioning the precautions, the civil surgeon said that these days' people should avoid contact with chickens and sick birds even the dead birds should be buried safely.

"For the prevention of bird flu, a work is being done in mutual coordination with the Department of Animal Husbandry, Wildlife and Veterinary Surgeons so that the situation of bird flu can be dealt with. A rapid response team has been formed for bird flu prevention and sampling," Yadav said.

International Education Conference 2021 kicks off

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi Government's International Education Conference 2021 kicked off with a panel discussion on "Get Children Ready for Formal Learning" led by policy experts from Finland, Germany and India.

The panel with its focus on early childhood education and formal education ran through four key discussions - school starting age, pre-academic and social skills, addressing early learning gaps, and implementing NEP's recommendation of ensuring foundations and school readiness

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Library branch of Directorate of Education, Government of Delhi. The session opened with introductory remarks by Lucy Crehan (UK), author of 'Cleverlands' and an international education consultant.

Makinen, an educator from Finland talked about prioritising teacher training, and emphasised the need for teachers to be prepared with all aspects of child behaviour in

their classrooms.

Makinen added, "It is important to appreciate teachers and teachers training. I also feel play-based education and learning by doing should be added to the curriculum. In the early years of teacher training in Finland a lot of theoretical knowledge is provided. At the same time, enough play-based practices are taught too. That practical knowledge creates

the real change, that is most helpful", she said.

On addressing the learning gaps, especially in education for special needs children, Jalan said that in India, lack of information for caregivers and parents has been the biggest hurdle.

"They need acceptance, and a lot of support. But things are changing as they're demanding inclusive schools and services," she said.

"It is important to understand the gaps in education and experiences in the life of a special needs child. Experiences shape their understanding and therefore, teaching techniques need to be more varied and creative to enhance learning," Jalan said.

Kaul, professor and former head of Department of

Preschool and Elementary Education, NCERT also highlighted the importance of having a comprehensive curriculum for students aged 3 to 8.

"In the light of NEP which talks about seamless transition into primary education, there needs to be a comprehensive curriculum for ages 3 to 8. It will come handy to teachers, and serve as a guiding framework to work with. Unless they are extremely well-trained, they won't be able to think for themselves," she added.

Kaul also talked about the role of anganwadi workers' future. She said, "The focus should be on blended training for Anganwadi workers. Their workload needs to be reassessed too since their role is not just limited to teaching," she added.

The civil surgeon said that all the health workers must work actively in their respective fields and immediately inform the officials of the Animal Husbandry Department if any

Man arrested for duping 17 investors to tune of ₹38 L

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Delhi Police on Wednesday arrested a 42-year-old man for allegedly duping several people. Police said that the accused had duped around 17 investors to the tune of ₹38 lakh in his projects.

The accused has been identified as Anil Kumar Sharma, a resident of Rajasthan's Jaipur.

According to Dr O P Mishra, the Joint Commissioner of Police, EOW, a case was registered at EOW police station on the basis of a joint complaint of Gurjeet Singh Madan and others against Anand Ultima Builders Private Limited.

"The complainants had purchased plots of land of various sizes situated at Asiana Enclave on National Highway-8 at Jaipur in the year 2012-2014 from Anand Ultima Builders. Most of the complainant had paid complete agreed purchase amount but till date, they have not been given the plot. The total alleged cheated amount in this case is Rs. 38 lakhs approximately and number of total investors is 17," said the Joint CP.

"During investigation the bank details were verified and relevant records and documents were scrutinized. Investigation from Government Land authorities revealed that no approval in the name of project 'Ashiana Enclave' is given by them. Further, bank records revealed that the accused was the beneficiary of cheated money," said the Joint CP.

"The accused director of the company, Anil Kumar Sharma has been avoiding joining investigation despite repeated notices. In order to apprehend the accused a team was constituted who arrested him from Jaipur on January 12. He was produced before the court in Delhi and one day police remand of the accused has been obtained for further investigation," the Joint CP added.

HAPPY Pongal

I wish everyone a Happy and Joyful Pongal. May God Bless us with a Great Year.

-Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

இனிய பொங்கல்
நல் வாழ்த்துக்கள்

Department of Art Culture and Language, Government of NCT of Delhi

'Govt's affidavit on farm laws evasive'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI



Congress spokesperson Abhishek Manu Singhvi said the Govt's affidavit is at variance to an RTI reply given by them

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

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

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

Singhvi said not even perfunctory consultations were done. "It is clear that there are serious attempts at prevarication, distortion, misrepresentation and misleading of the nation, the Supreme court and all relevant stakeholders, apart

from indulging in blatantly contumacious conduct. These laws were rammed down the throat of Parliament. "The Government has attempted to fool all the people of India all the time by practising falsehoods on stilts. Unfortunately, they have not even spared the hon'ble Supreme Court," Singhvi added.

He also said bringing the laws shows incoherence within the Government since it was well aware the serious lack of legislative competence in passing uniform all India Acts which is why it sent out the Model Acts to be adopted by the States. "The content of such model laws was also different from the three enactments as passed without discussion in Parliament," said the Rajya Sabha member.

He respect Supreme Court and so should be done by the farmers", said BJP's national spokesman Sambit Patra.

SAMBIT PATRA SAID BJP'S FOUR-POINT FORMULA FOR THE SOLUTION OF THE CURRENT ISSUE INCLUDES 'SMVAAD, SAMMAN, SAHMATI AUR SADBHAVNA'

"In Supreme Court's decisions the nation takes pride and that therefore the BJP with utmost respect bows down in front of the Supreme Court and accepts their decision on the Farm laws."

Patra said he was hopeful that the farmers too will accept this decision and walk on the path that the SC has paved for them.

He said BJP's four-point formula for the solution of the current issue includes "smvaad, samman, sahmati aur sadbhavna". The BJP leader maintained that ever since Prime Minister Narendra Modi has joined India's Government as a

loyal servant to its citizen, his only goal has been the welfare of Indian farmers and promotion of poor people as well as helping all excluded and discriminated sections of the society.

"For over 70 years the farmers of our nation have been denied basic rights", he asserted.

Patra said farmers interest is in uppermost in the mind of the Prime Minister.

"His other concerns also revolve around helping farmers earn more, making sure there is proper irrigation and that no citizen in India sleeps hungry", the BJP spokesman said.

PMFBY was launched on January 13, 2016 with an aim to provide a comprehensive risk solution at the lowest uni-

Hope farmers' will abide by SC order: BJP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday hoped that farmers would respect Supreme Court decisions as BJP has done saying "we should trust all constitutional institutions".

"We respect Supreme Court and so should be done by the farmers", said BJP's national spokesman Sambit Patra.

"In Supreme Court's decisions the nation takes pride and that therefore the BJP with utmost respect bows down in front of the Supreme Court and accepts their decision on the Farm laws."

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FASAL BIMA COMPLETES 5 YEARS

29 cr farmers enrolled with yojna so far: Min

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

On the occasion of five years of implementation of PMFBY, the Minister said crop insurance is the only "suraksha kavach (security shield)" for farmers from any crop losses arising due to natural disasters.

"So far, 29 crore farmers have insured their crops under the scheme and about 5.5 crores new farmers are getting registered every year. A total of ₹90,000 crore have been paid as claims to farmers till now. In fact, the scheme was fully operational during the Covid-19 lockdown, distributing claims of over ₹8,741.3 crores to 69.70 lakh farmers across India, which is highly commendable," he said.

PMFBY was launched on

January 13, 2016 with an aim to

provide a comprehensive

risk solution at the lowest uni-

form premium across the country for farmers.

"On this occasion, I want to again congratulate farmers and urge them to tell fellow farmers and relatives to take advantage of the crop insurance," Tomar said in a video message. He also urged those farmers, who have not yet got their crop insured, to get one today itself and secure crops from natural disasters.

Tomar also interacted with stakeholders across the country via video conferencing on the occasion of completion of five years of the PMFBY. He said that there is a need to raise awareness about the PMFBY so that many more farmers can take advantage of the scheme.

The Minister informed that PMFBY has been made voluntary and the scheme is linked with technology. Moreover, efforts have been made to ensure transparency. For speedy disbursal of claims and crop assessment, the centre is using satellite and is working closely with the State Governments.

A crop insurance mobile app, where farmers can get all

information related to the

scheme, is also made available, he added. Under the scheme, the premium cost over and above the farmer share is equally subsidised by the Centre and States. The average sum insured per hectare has increased from ₹15,100 during the pre-PMFBY Schemes to ₹40,700 under the PMFBY.

Aadhar seeding has helped in speedy claim settlement directly into the farmer accounts. Even during Covid lockdown period, nearly 70 lakh farmers benefitted and claims worth ₹8,741.30 crores were transferred to beneficiaries, according to the Ministry data.

Talks must continue: MoS Rupala

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Union Minister of State for Agriculture Parshottam Rupala on Wednesday said the Government is in favour of continuing talks with protesting farmer groups as it believes a solution can be found only through dialogue. He was responding to a query whether the Government talks with protesting farmers' leaders on January 15 will be held as scheduled in the wake of the Supreme Court setting up of a committee to resolve the crisis.

In another development, Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday to discuss the protests in the State over the legislations.

While eight rounds of negotiations so far between the Government and a representative group of thousands of farmers protesting against three farm laws have failed to resolve the crisis, the Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the implementation of the three Acts till further orders and set up a four-member committee to end the impasse.

On Tuesday, Kailash Choudhary, who is also Minister of State for Agriculture, had said the Government was willing to go ahead with the meeting and it was for the farmer groups to decide what they want.

In another development, Haryana Deputy Chief Minister Dushyant Chautala is expected to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday to discuss the protests in the State over the legislations. The meeting comes a day after Dushyant and Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar held talks with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, after which they reiterated there was no threat to the State's coalition Government.

ED arrests former TMC MP KD Singh for money laundering

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The 59-year-old founder of Alchemist Ltd. is facing charges under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The ED arrested him late last night for not cooperating in the investigation of the case, sources said.

Singh was produced before a

special court here on Wednesday

which remanded him to the ED custody till January 16, they said.

In September 2019, the ED had

carried out searches at the premises of Singh and those linked to him in Delhi and Chandigarh and had

seized cash of ₹32 lakh and \$10,000.

Singh was the chairman of Alchemist Ltd., which deals in pharmaceuticals and other sectors, before he resigned in 2012. He is said to be the Chairman Emeritus and founder of the business group at present.

Climate change stunts baby sharks' growth

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

Warming of oceans due to climate change is leaving baby sharks not only smaller, exhausted, undernourished but also making their survival tough, a study published in the journal Scientific Reports has warned, painting gloomy picture for marine world as temperatures underwater is predicted to exceed in the coming years.

Researchers reached to this conclusion after testing the growth, development and physiological performance of embryos and hatchlings of epaulette sharks—an egg-laying species at the New England Aquarium in waters up to 31 degrees Celsius (87.8 degrees) Fahrenheit.

Lead author Carolyn Wheeler a PhD scholar from the University of Massachusetts Boston and at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University, studied the sharks as embryos and hatchlings, under the guidance of Dr John Mandelman, Vice President and Chief Scientist of

the Anderson Cabot Center for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium.

There are more than 500 types of shark living around the world, and the majority give birth to live young. Some shark species, like epaulette sharks, lay eggs, which are left unprotected and must be able to survive on their own for up to four months.

"We found that the hotter the conditions, the faster everything happened, which could be a problem for the sharks," said Wheeler. "The embryos grew faster and used their yolk sac quicker, which is their only source of food as they develop in the egg case. This led to them hatching earlier than usual." Wheeler said the hatchlings were not only smaller, but they needed to feed almost immediately while lacking significant energy.

"The ocean faces increasing threats from humans, such as the effects of climate change, and it is vital to conduct scientific research to help strengthen the management and protection of those ocean species

most negatively impacted and vulnerable," Mandelman said. "In this case, we addressed a pressing threat—ocean warming—and the potential impacts on a species that could serve as a model for other egg-laying species among sharks and their relatives."

"The epaulette shark is known for its resilience to change, even to ocean acidification," Jodie Rummer, co-author and associate professor at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, said in a statement. "So, if this species can't cope with warming waters, then how will other, less tolerant species fare?"

The Aquarium has a successful breeding program for epaulette sharks, allowing the researchers to use some of the eggs to study climate change impacts on a shark species native to the other side of the world. The research was housed at the Aquarium's Animal Care Center in Quincy, Mass. under the direction of Barbara Bailey, Curator of Husbandry and Sustainability, informed the study.

Covid healthcare workers at risk of mental health problems: Study

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

More than half of doctors, nurses, and emergency responders involved in Covid-19 care could be at risk for one or more mental health problems, including acute traumatic stress, depression, anxiety, problematic alcohol use, and insomnia, as per a study.

While noting that the daily toll of Covid-19, as measured by new cases and the growing number of deaths, overlooks a shadowy set of casualties, the researchers found that the risk of these mental health conditions was comparable to rates observed during natural disasters, such as 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina.

"What health care workers are experiencing is akin to domestic combat," said Andrew J Smith, Ph.D., director of the U of U Health Occupational Trauma Program at the Huntsman Mental Health Institute and the study's corresponding author.

"Although the majority of health care professionals and emergency responders aren't necessarily going to

develop PTSD, they are working under severe duress, day after day, with a lot of unknowns. Some will be susceptible to a host of stress-related mental health consequences. By studying both resilient and pathological trajectories, we can build a scaffold for constructing evidence-based interventions for both individuals and public health systems."

The study appears in the Journal of Psychiatric Research. In addition to U of U Health scientists, contributors include researchers from the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; University of Colorado, Colorado Springs; Central Arkansas VA Health Care System; Salt Lake City VA Healthcare System; and the National Institute for Human Resilience.

The researchers surveyed 571 health care workers, including 473 emergency responders (firefighters, police, EMTs) and 98 hospital staff (doctors, nurses), in the Mountain West between April 1 and May 7, 2020. Overall, 56 per cent of the respondents screened positive for at

least one mental health disorder. The prevalence for each specific disorder ranged from 15 per cent to 30 per cent of the respondents, with problematic alcohol use, insomnia, and depression topping the list.

"Frontline providers are exhausted, not only from the impact of the pandemic itself, but also in terms of coping day to day," said Charles C. Benight, co-author of the study and a professor of psychology at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs.

"They're trying to make sure that their families are safe [and] they're frustrated over not having the pandemic under control. Those things create the sort of burnout, trauma, and stress that lead to the mental health challenges we're seeing among these caregivers."

In particular, the scientists found that health care workers who were exposed to the virus or who were at greater risk of infection because they were immunocompromised had a significantly increased risk of acute traumatic stress, anxiety, and depression.

NIA files chargesheet against 3 in murder case of Hindu Takht leader

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The NIA on Wednesday filed a supplementary chargesheet before a Special NIA Court here against accused persons Ashish Kumar, Javed and Arshad Ali, all residents of Meerut under various Sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Arms Act and IPC in the case relating to the killing of Hindu leader Amit Sharma, president of Sri Hindu Takht, Ludhiana in 2017 by banned terror group Khalistan Liberation Front.

The case was re-registered by the NIA on December 10, 2017 arising out of FIR No. 06 dated January 15, 2017 of Police Station Division Number 8, Ludhiana, Punjab related to the killing of the Hindu leader.

On January 14, 2017, two unknown motorcycle-borne assailants killed Sharma as a part of an organised conspiracy hatched by terrorist outfit Khalistan Liberation Front (KLF). This murder was one among eight such cases of serial killings/attempted killings that took place in Punjab in 2016-2017 with a view to create terror and communal disturbance.

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one boy Namely Altamash S/o Mohd. Mustafa R/o H.No.870, Haweli Azam Khan, Chitti Qaber Chowk, Jama Masjid, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped since 31.12.2020 from the area of PS-Chandni Mahal, Delhi. In this regard, a case FIR. No.0001/2021, U/s 363 IPC. Dated 02.01.2021 has been registered at P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi. The description of the missing boy are as under.

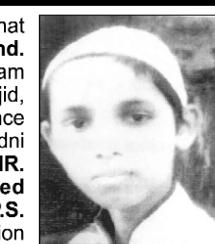
Age: about 14 Years, **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Height:** 4'6", **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** White Colour Kurta, White Colour Payajama, Multi Colour jacket and Black Colour Slipper in feet. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out him but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/Kidnapped boy then please inform P.S. Chandni Mahal, Delhi at following Tel. No./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and website: http://cbi.nic.in.

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639

DP/593/CD/2021

PH. 011-23279338, 23271751



ALTAMASH

| SR. NO. | NAME OF BOARD CORP./AUTH | OLD REFERENCE/NIT NO. | NATURE OF CORIGENDUM | WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./AUTH |
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Adhikari sees threat to his life, moves HC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

"On January 3 my convoy was

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

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

Adhikari said that the Centre

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Seven MLAs sworn in as Cabinet Ministers in K'taka

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

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

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

While being inducted, six of the new

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

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

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

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

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

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

He pointed out the announcement by CT Ravi, the BJP's National Secretary in

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

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

But he also disclosed that there was no question of the PMK aligning with the DMK. Congress chief K S Alagiri said that Rahul Gandhi has no

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

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

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

Congress chief K S Alagiri said that Rahul Gandhi has no

other engagements except watching the bull taming. He is likely to interact with farmers to get a first hand information about the issues faced by them.

Interestingly, the Congress had assured the people in its 2009 and 2014 election manifestos that the party, if voted back to power, would ban Jallikattu. J P Nadda, BJP President, too would pay a two day visit to Tamil Nadu starting Thursday. Besides celebrating Pongal (the annual harvest festival of Tamil Nadu) at a suburb in Chennai, the BJP boss would be the chief guest at the anniversary celebrations of Thuglak, the weekly launched by late "Cho" Ramaswamy. The Thuglak anniversary is rated as Tamil Nadu's major socio-political-cultural event held on January 14 every year.

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

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

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

staff.

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

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

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

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

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

UP's primary teachers to get corporate appraisal system

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

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

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

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

Coal & cattle scam: CBI to summon 17 IPS officers

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

The 17 IPS officers under CBI radar may soon get the notice from the central agency to appear before it, sources said while the ruling TMC leadership saw in it a ploy by the BJP to force these officials to depose against their top leadership.

"Nothing will deter our leader Mamata Banerjee from fighting against the communal forces like the BJP," Trinamool MP Saugat Roy said.

BJP demands rape-accused NCP Minister's resignation

Munde dismisses charges as fake

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

allegations against Munde by "not succumbing to political pressure."

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

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

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

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

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

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

Munde, a senior NCP leader.

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

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

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

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

Sankranti cockfights popular in Andhra Pradesh despite Covid

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

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

Seesali is a small Godavari village, 10 km away from Bhimavaram by the JP Road, where some acres of flattened paddy fields host the bloody sport every year without fail, behind a defunct prawn packing and exporting company.

Manthena Ramaraju, local MLA and Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leader representing the Undi constituency was seen to be busy at the event. He entered the ring many times.

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

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

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

4 girls, including 3 sisters go missing in UP

IANS ■ ETAWAH (UTTAR PRADESH)

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

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

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

One of the girls is 18 years

old while the remaining three are minors.

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

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

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

e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE

eProcurement Portal: <https://eproc.cgstate.gov.in>

(1st Call)

System Tender No.: 70326/NIT No.: 11/SAC/2020-21,

Gariaband, Dated : 30.12.2020

Following amendment is made in the online tender for EXCAVATION OF PILOT CHANNEL FROM R.D. 470 M.T. TO 690 M. IN SPILL CHANNEL AND CONSTRUCTION OF R.C.C RAILING OVER GUIDE WALL & WING WALL OF SIKASAR RES



The jab of health

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



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

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

Welcome, Tesla!

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



It is official! The Electric Vehicle (EV) major, Tesla, has entered the Indian market which is certainly good news for the green brigade and all EV enthusiasts. This is a development that everyone hankering after a thoroughbred EV was awaiting. It is expected to give a big push to India's plans to move to green car technology in a major way in order to meet its global commitments to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the effects of climate change. The increased use of EVs could reduce CO2 emissions by 37 per cent. In October 2020, Tesla CEO Elon Musk had said that the process of bringing Tesla cars to India would begin in January 2021 and, towards the end of December 2020, Union Minister for Road

Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari had reiterated that commitment. Now that promise is being fulfilled and Tesla has registered Tesla India Motors and Energy Private Limited in Bengaluru as a subsidiary of the foreign company. However, as in all things related to maverick tech-billionaire Musk, there is a lot of mystery and speculation surrounding this entry at the moment and the firm's India operations. But the positive thing is that the company is in talks with other State Governments too in its search for local partners. It's not yet known what the car maker's Bengaluru subsidiary will do, and there are reports that it could be just a research and development unit. It is speculated that Tesla may launch its fully electric Model 3 sedan in India at ₹60 lakh. However, this is way above the price tag common Indians can afford. Plus, there are already enough pure EVs in India that come at a much more reasonable price and Gadkari has already promised that India will continue to encourage other carmakers to build cheaper EVs which will be as technologically advanced as those made by Tesla.

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

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

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi

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

Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez

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

Actor Keira Knightley

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

Australian coach Justin Langer

Incentivise girl students

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

In many far-off places and rural areas, parents are still reluctant to send their daughters to school due to several reasons.

Consequently, girls often fail to complete their schooling and are married off at an early age.

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

Aman Jaiswal
Delhi

Govt should draft a national liquor policy

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

Ironically, mostly those who are from the lower rungs of society fall prey to the menace of illicit liquor.

A lack of quality control while preparing countrymade liquor results in many impurities and adulterants being present in it. This leads to serious organ damage or even the death of the person who consumes it.

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

SOUND BITE

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

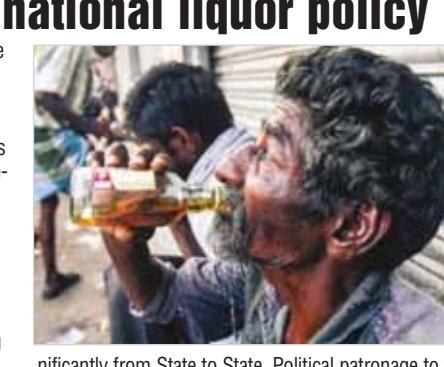
Ensure user privacy

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

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

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

Bhagwan Thadani
Mumbai



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

Ganapathi Bhat
Akola

Expand expert panel

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

It is quite possible for the farmers to feel that the compon-

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

The top court can still review this angle and expand the

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

D Nagarjuna
Hyderabad

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

Opportunistic Oli?

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



ASHOK K MEHTA



Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali is in New Delhi for the 6th Meeting of India-Nepal Joint Commission. The invitation was given before Nepal Prime Minister KP Oli, facing a revolt in his party, dissolved Parliament last month and ordered elections, making him the head of a caretaker Government. Oli shot to fame by winning an overwhelming mandate for the pro-China Nepal Communist Party (NCP) on an anti-India wave of ultra-nationalism and later bashing New Delhi with sundry charges, including territorial aggression and attempts at unseating his Government. In diplomacy there are neither permanent friends nor permanent enemies, only permanent interests.

Oli decided to make up to India with friendly overtures to which India responded favourably, prompting Nepalis to speculate that the dissolution of the House might be at India's behest and that China's loss is India's gain. Except that the validity of the prematurely terminated Parliament in which Oli enjoyed a majority is to be determined by that country's Supreme Court and an "election Government" could be in place if and when the elections are held. So far, India has issued one official statement noting that the political developments are an "internal matter for Nepal to decide as per its democratic process". Indian Ambassador Vinay Kwatra has met Government Ministers in Kathmandu to continue minimal engagement. Meanwhile, the majority faction of the NCP — led by co-chairs Madhav Nepal and Prachanda, who is also the new leader of the parliamentary party and other Opposition parties — is out on the streets challenging Oli's "undemocratic" and "unconstitutional" dissolution of Parliament. Heavily invested in Nepal, China failed to secure a patch-up and unity in the NCP despite dispatching a Chinese Communist Party delegation to the Himalayan State.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FIRST COLUMN

The future must be green

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



DHRUBA PURKAYASTHA

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

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

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

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

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

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



SHSHANK SAURAV

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Government's role is not

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

The Government launched the ambitious 'Vivad se Vishwas' (VSV) scheme in the last Budget with the intent to unclog the judiciary and realise the money locked in litigation. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) issued circulars for implementation of the scheme and the intent was to settle the disputes. But if field officers are not complying with the legislative intent to a large extent and many issues are not getting resolved, the Government is to be blamed squarely for this.

Because it is not the bureaucracy who has to seek the mandate of the people every five years. And people see the faces of their elected representatives, not bureaucrats.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

analysis

07

POINT COUNTER POINT

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

—TMC MP
KALYAN BANERJEE



IT SEEMS KALYAN HAS AUGMENTED THE SLOGAN OF 'TMC HATAO BANGLA BACHAO' BY DRAGGING THE NAME OF MOTHER SITA AS PART OF TMC'S POLITICS.
—VHP NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON
VINOD BANSAL

Don't expect a dignified exit

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



DEVENDER SINGH ASWAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Good intentions are not enough, implementation is key

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



SHSHANK SAURAV

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REMOVAL OF TRUMP FROM OFFICE

Pence asked to invoke 25th Amendment



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

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

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

ident from office.

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

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

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

"Defiling the genius of the Constitution, separate but

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

United States.

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

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

PTI

Free speech is under assault like never before: Trump

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

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

to the US Constitution wherein he can be removed by his cabinet members.

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

"The impeachment hoax is a continuation of the greatest and most vicious witch hunt in the history of our country and is causing tremendous anger and division, and pain far greater than most people will ever understand, which is very dangerous for the USA, especially at this very tender time," he said.

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

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

PTI

"Defiling the genius of the Constitution, separate but

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

United States.

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

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

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

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

The government intends

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

China denies allegations of

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

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

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

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

AP

Iran to hold missile drill in Gulf of Oman amid tensions

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

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

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

AP

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

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Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this boy but no clue has come to light so far.

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

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Economic activity continues on normalisation: Report

FY21 GDP to contract 6.7%

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Economic activity continued with its pace of normalisation and the festivities helped narrow the deficits as compared to the year-ago period in December, a Japanese brokerage said on Wednesday.

Based on data shown by its proprietary models, Nomura also revised up its FY21 GDP forecast to a contraction of 6.7%, as against the official estimate of a 7.7% contraction in the pandemic-impacted fiscal year.

The Nomura India Monthly Activity Indicator rose to -2.3% in December provisionally when compared to the year-ago period's performance, and was much better than the -7.7% year-on-year witnessed in November and -13.3% in September, it said.

The brokerage said this suggests a "strong recovery" in Q4. "The economic situation did not substantially deteriorate in the festive season in December quarter, clearing the decks for a faster pace of economic normalisation," it said.

"We expect GDP growth of -6.7 per cent y-o-y in FY21, before rising to 13.5 per cent in FY22, above consensus (10 per cent).

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

For the current financial year, it expects GDP to con-

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

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

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

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

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

For more details kindly visit: <https://tripuratenders.gov.in> vide tender I.D:-.....or contact with the O/o the bid inviting authority Ph No: 9436460131/7005447625.

Sd/-

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

ICA/C-2785/2020-21

West Tripura

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

UJVN Limited

H.O.: "Ujjwal", Maharanji Bagh, GMS Road, Dehradun-248006

Telephone : 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508

CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website : [www.ujvn.com](http://ujvn.com)

Ro. No. 41 e-Tender Notice Dated: 13/01/2021

Office of the EE (E&M), Asan Barrage, Dhakrani invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

e-NIT No. 09/EE (E&M)/Asan Barrage/2020-21

Name of Supply: Procurement of safety and security equipment.

Estimated Cost : Rs. 6,50,000.00 (GST extra)

Date of availability of bid document on website: 12/01/2021

Last date for submission of bids on website: 03/02/2021 upto 17:00 Hrs

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal

<http://uktenders.gov.in>

Executive Engineer(E&M)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

Participants also kept their powder dry ahead of some key corporate results, traders said.

After gyrating over 721 points during the day, the 30-share BSE index ended 24.79 points or 0.05 per cent lower at 49,492.32. It scaled a record intra-day peak of 49,795.19.

The broader NSE Nifty inched up 1.40 points or 0.01 per cent to its fresh closing record of 14,564.85. The index touched a lifetime high of 14,653.35 during the day.

M&M was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rallying 6.24 per cent, followed by SBI, ITC, NTPC, Bharti Airtel and Axis Bank.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

RBI sets up panel to suggest measures for promoting digital lending

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

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

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

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

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

Sandeep Aggarwal appointed TEPC chairman

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Mallya denied permission to appeal in UK bankruptcy case

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

Hike in petrol, diesel rates after global oil price jump

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

IANS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that one girl namely Richa Jain D/o Shobaag Jain R/o 1540B Gali No. 11, Jain Nagar, Karala, Delhi has been missing/kidnapped from the area of PS: Begumpur, Delhi since 25.12.2020. In this regard, a case DD No. 38A Dated 25.12.2020 has been registered at P.S. Begumpur, Delhi. The description of the missing girl are as under.

RICHIA JAIN

Age: 20 Years, Complexion: Shallow, Height: 5' 6", Face: Round, Hair: Black & Long, Wearing: Black colour suit-salwar

and cream colour jacket. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to trace out her but no clue has come to light so far. If anyone has any information about the missing/ kidnapped girl then please inform PS: Begumpur, Delhi at following Tel No./e-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in and Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>, providing clue about the missing girl.

Ph: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax No. 011-24368639

SD/- SHO

PS: Begumpur, Delhi

Ph: 8750870326

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo), Namely: Soni, D/o: Sh. Sheshnath, R/o: E-160, JJ Colony, Shakarpur, Delhi Aged: 18 years 7 month, has been missing since 30.12.2020 from the area of PS Subhash Place, Delhi. In this regard a case vide DD No. 32A, Dated 30.12.2020, has been lodged at P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:



Height: 5' 2" Feet, Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Strong, Clothing: Grey Colour Suit and Salwar.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Subhash Place, Delhi. at E-mail: cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in> Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O

Ph.: 011-27356336, 27353014, 8750870224

DP/596/NW/2021. Ph.: 011-27356336, 27353014, 8750870224

For Modi Rubber Limited

Sd/- (S K Bajpai)

Head-Legal & Company Secretary

DP/596/NW/2021

Notice

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

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

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

For Modi Rubber Limited

Trend Blazer

Cyrus challenged his fears in Manali

Actor-anchor **CYRUS SAHUKAR** challenged his fears in Manali, and he says the outcome was a meditative and relaxed feeling.

"It was an incredible experience being in Manali after months of lockdown. To be in such a beautiful setting, hanging with (actor) Amol (Parashar) and doing all these adventure activities was a magnificent experience for me," Cyrus said.

"The best moment was canyoning down the waterfall as I had never done that before. It was super scary, yet there was something very calm about it. It was almost like after you get over your fears, there's a meditative and relaxed feeling that you get," he added.

Cyrus went to Manali to host the reality series *Feelin Alive Season 2*.

Actor KAJOL shared a hilarious way to avoid all things that make her fat, and fans sure are amused.

On Instagram stories, she shared a post that read: "I've decided I'm ignoring all the things that make me fat... Mirrors, Scales, Opinions..."

She is currently gearing up for the release of her next film, the Renuka Shahane-directed women-centric digital release, *Tribhangta: Tedi Medhi Crazy*.

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



Live outside the box

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

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

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

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

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

The way of living will become affordable and better organised

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

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

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

The growing need and importance of building a sustainable community

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

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

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

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

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

The outlook on co-living in 2021

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

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

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

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

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General Public is hereby informed that one girl (depicted in the photo) namely **Manisha D/o Shatrudhan Mukhya R/o H. No. WZ-333, Shakurpur Village, Delhi** **Aged- 16 Years** has been registered missing since 27.10.2020 at 11:00 AM from the area of P.S. Subhash Place, Delhi vide **FIR No. 472/20 U/s 363 IPC Dated 28.10.2020** has been lodged at Police Station Subhash Place, Delhi. Her physical description is as under:-

Complexion: Fair, **Height:** 4'9", **Built:** Medium, **Face:** Oval, **ID:** burn mark on forehead, **Wearing:** Black coloured suit, yellow coloured dupatta and Purple coloured slipper in feet. Any person having any information/Clue about this missing girl, may inform SHO, Subhash Place, Delhi at E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in or website : <http://cbi.nic.in>

Tele No.: 011-24368638 or 24368641 SHO, Subhash Place, Delhi FAX No.: 011-24368639 Mob.: 8750870224



Manisha

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

The general public is hereby informed that an unidentified person about 27 years of age whose name, residence, and family is unknown had been found dead under the flyover, Wazirabad, Delhi on 11.01.2021. In this regard, a vide has been registered with **FIR No: 30/21 dated 11.01.2021 u/s 279/304A at PS Wazirabad, Delhi**. Sincere efforts have been made by the local police to identify the deceased person, but no clue has come to light so far. The description of the UIDB is as under:

Sex: Male, **Age:** about 27 years, **Height:** 5'6", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Medium, **Wearing:** Yellow-white colour shirt and grey colour pant.

If anyone has any information about his relatives, kindly inform the SHO / Wazirabad, Delhi.

E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in

Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641

Fax : 011-24368639

DP/880/N/2021



SHO
P.S. Wazirabad, Delhi.

Ph. No. 011-23810076, 23810073

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform you that Late Shree Khushi Ram (Voter ID No UP77/387/0315215) S/o Late Shree Khairali R/o Village Parthal Khanjarpur Sector-122 Noida Distt. G.B. Nagar has a plot in Noida whose No. is Plot No PK-38 Sector -121 Noida is registered at sub registrar office 1st in Bait No. 3 Jild No. 673, at page no. from 221-238 on 27.12.2016 at serial no. 2251. So above plot is being transferred to the name of Deepak Kumar Yadav (Adhar No. 080285916315), Deepanshu Yadav (Adhar No. 080285916315), S/o Shree Sayaveri Singh Yadav and Jasveer Yadav (Adhar No. 27267973694). S/o Shree Ransingh Yadav and Kailash Yadav (Adhar No. 266440084095) S/o Ram Singh R/o Village Parthal Khanjarpur Sector-122 Noida on the basis of registered will. So all related people is informed that if someone has any objection about transfer of above plot, then submit his objection in Noida Authority Residential department with all document proof within 30 days from the publishing date of this information. Kailash Yadav

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE MATERIALS MANAGEMENT (PURCHASE- I)

SHER-I-KASHMIR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES

SOURA, SRINAGAR-190011

FAX: 0194-2403929, E-mail: ammpurchase1@skims.ac.in

Sub :- Extension of E-NIT.

Ref :- (i) E-NIT No: SIMS 325 (P 1st) Drugs Tender 07 OF 2020, DATED: 12.12.2020.

(ii) Approval of Director, Dated: 12.01.2021.

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

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

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

• Other terms and condition shall remain unchanged.

No: **SIMS 325 (P1st) Drugs Tender 07 of 2020- 132-38-5940-43.**

Dated: **13.01.2021**

Sd/- Materials Management Officer Purchase I, SKIMS

SEARCH FOR MISSING

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

Website : <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-24368639
Ph. No.: 011-24368638, 24368641
DP/575/NW/2021

SHO
P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely **Shikha Gupta, D/o: Bhupendra Kumar Gupta, R/o: B-1/160, Aman Vihar, Delhi** has been reported missing since **17.10.2020 at around 02:00 PM** from her house. In this regard **FIR No. 548/20 dated 11.11.2020** has been registered at P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi. The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: **Shikha Gupta, Age: 18 Year, Height: 5', Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Black colour Suit & Grey colour Jeans**

If anyone have any information about this missing girl please inform P.S. Aman Vihar, Delhi

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
Place: New Delhi
For Sunil Healthcare Limited
Santosh Kumar Sharma
Company Secretary & Compliance Officer
F-6617

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General Public is hereby informed that one girl **Nemat, D/o: Md. Ilyas, R/o: G-228, J.J. Colony, Sawai, Delhi** has been missing/kidnapped since **25.12.2020 at 3:00 pm** from the area of P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. In this regard a case vide **DD No. 15A dated 26.12.2020** has been registered at P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi. The description of the missing girl are as under: **Age: 18 years 9 months, Sex: Female, Height: 5', Face: Long, Complexion: Shallow, Hair: Black, Built: Thin, Wearing: Black colour suit, white colour salwar and white colour jutti in feet.** Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out the girl but no clue has come to light so far. Any person having any information or clue about this girl kindly inform to the following.

Website: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-mail Id - cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638, 24368641
Fax No. 011-24368639
DP/603/RD/2021
SHO
Police Station Aman Vihar, Delhi
Ph: 011-27581812, 8750870321
P.S. Kanjhawala, Delhi
Ph.: 011-25951486, 8750870324

General public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Rohit, S/o Chandrika Manjhi, R/o H.No. RZ-418, Gali No. 7, Karan Vihar, Part-I, Kirari, Delhi, Age: 16 Years, Height: 5'4"**, **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Round, **Built:** Thin, wearing Green & White colour Sweater and Black colour Pajama, has been missing from his house since 23.12.2020. In this regard

Chennai airport gears up for a makeover



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IN SHORT



POWERGRID SKOCH Silver Award for its transformational performance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and POWERGRID's Skill development and employment generation

program for sustainable growth of 200 underprivileged Women in Damoh district of MP. SKOCH group is India's leading think tank dealing with socio-economic issues with focus on inclusive growth since 1997. SKOCH has instituted India's highest independent civilian honours in the field of governance, finance, technology, economics and social sector.



Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna PSU has won the SHRM HR Excellence Award at the SHRM10 India Annual & Tech Conference- a virtual conference hosted by SHRM India, the world's largest HR professional society. This is the first award that SHRM body has awarded to any PSU in India. POWERGRID won the award after competing with almost a dozen PSU organisations and more than 360 organizations participating in the overall awards process. The award was presented to Mr. K. Sreekar, CMD, POWERGRID and Mr. V. K. Singh, Director Personnel, POWERGRID in person at POWERGRID Corporate Office. The SHRM HR Excellence Awards have been instituted as an exemplary platform to recognize organizations that put people first, deliver future focused excellence in the field of People Management and understand the importance of human capital as a key contributor to business outcomes.

NTPC'S OLDEST UNIT RECORDS HIGHEST PLF



NTPC Ltd's very first unit, which was commissioned 38 years ago at Singrauli in Uttar Pradesh, has achieved the highest Plant Load Factor (PLF) of 100.24 per cent among all thermal units in the country between April to December 2020, data published by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) showed. The 200 MW unit was commissioned in 1982 and

the robust PLF signifies the exceptional operational and maintenance efficiency.

Besides the exceptional feat achieved by unit#1, three more NTPC units — Singrauli unit#4 and Korba unit #1 and #2 in Chhattisgarh, have figured among top five performing units.

Further, NTPC Group achieved highest gross gen-

eration of 222.4 Billion Unit (BU) from April to December 2020, an increase of 3.8 per cent compared to the same period last year. Concurrently, NTPC coal power stations have maintained high availability of 92.21 per cent from April to December 2020 as against 87.64 per cent during the same period last year.

Six flagship power

plants of NTPC i.e. NTPC Korba (2,600 MW), NTPC Sipat (2,980 MW) in Chhattisgarh, NTPC Rihand (3,000 MW) in Uttar Pradesh, NTPC Vindhya (4,760 MW) in Madhya Pradesh, NTPC Talcher Thermal (460 MW) and NTPC Talcher Kaniha (3,000 MW) in Odisha have also featured among the top 10 performing thermal plants in the country.

BSF rolls out Maitri Cycle Rally

and after covering of total distance of 4,097 Kms along the border, the rally will end on 17th March, 2021, at Border Out Post Silkor, 60 Battalion, Mizoram Frontier. 13 Bicycle riders would be participating in this Cycle Rally. This rally will be completed in 66 days and it will be passing through the states viz. West Bengal, Assam, Tripura, Manipur, Meghalaya and Mizoram along the Indo-Bangladesh border covering distance of 4,097 Kms.

This Cycle Rally will be flagged

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

ious Border Posts enroute, which will involve local government officials and people from the border areas who will encourage the riders.

On 11th January 2021, a programme will be held at Petrapole to welcome this bicycle rally, in which Sh. S. Ramakrishnan, IPS, ADG (Police) Retd, will be the Chief Guest. The event will be attended by Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh, IPS, Additional Director General, Eastern Command, Officers of

Border Security Force & Border Guard Bangladesh and local people. This cycle rally will culminate on 17th March 2021, at Border Out Post Silkor, Mizoram.

The objective of this bicycle rally is to create sense of security among the people living on the border, to enhance the friendship between Border Security Force and Border Guard Bangladesh, to create awareness amongst the border population, to stop trans-border crimes, no use of drugs and to stop cattle smuggling on the border. The Border Security Force is determined to make this cycle rally a success.

PRESS RELEASE

DIRECTORATE OF TOURISM, JAMMU Celebration "Lohri Festival-2021 at Katra"

The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu celebrated Lohri Festival-2021 on a grand scale at Katra today on 12thJanuary, 2021, the event was celebrated in collaboration with the District Administration Reasi, Hotel & Restaurant Association, Travel Agent Association, Dry Fruit Association, Katra and officers/officials of Tourism Department. The above said event was organized for the 1st time at Katra by the Tourism department, started from Asia Chowk, to Fountain Chowk, Katra with cultural procession and local folk dance also performed by the artists. Special Kudi performance and Lohri Haran dance was performed by the artists of J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Jammu at Foundation Chowk Katra. The aim of celebration of this festival is sustainable effort being made by the Tourism department with other stakeholders to revive the Tourism sector, in the area.

On this occasion the Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Mrs. Indu Kanwal Chib KAS, was Chief Guest, DDC Panthal, Sh. Rajinder Mengi, CO CRPF 6th Battalion Katra, Sh. Jatinder Gupta, Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, Mrs. Neelam Khajuria, SDM Katra, Sh. Ashok Kumar Chowdhary Addl. SP, Katra Sh. Amit Bhasin, Assistant Director Tourism, Katra, Ms. Ambika Bali and staff of Tourism Department were present

The Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, celebrates Lohri festival.

International Adolescent Summit ends



peace, amongst the various cultural backdrops of the nation. The International Adolescent Summit also endeavoured to facilitate an understanding of other adolescent concerns such as gender

sensitization, family bonding and communication, media literacy thus enabling a conducive environment for application of Life Skills and partnering for Behavioural and Emotional Safety of school

going students.

Shri Rajat Sharma Chairman & Editor-in-Chief, INDIA TV News, and the Guest of Honour at the event said that the adolescents are also our teachers in some regard as they constantly teach us new ways of life and lead the world to new direction. He applauded the program director, Dr. Jitendra Nagpal for successfully organizing this interactive summit wherein the adolescents were not mere audience but an integral part of the entire program. He said that good health, both mental and physical, is the most important aspect of life and the biggest lesson that the pandemic has taught us. Adolescents

especially need to focus on their mental well-being.

"If you are rich, travel. If you are poor, read. But if you are in between, then do both." Speaking at the valedictory ceremony of the International Adolescent Summit, Shri Yuvraj Malik Director National Book Trust, India implored adolescents to have self-faith and believe in their own capabilities. Recognizing the adolescents as future leaders and future of the nation, he encouraged them to embrace the talent that sleeps within and express it fearlessly. Adolescence is the stage of life where one has unlimited capabilities, strength and the youth should be fearless in accepting and expressing their talent.

Adolescence is a tender age where an individual goes through self-realization and requires the right guidance and mentorship to build his life. The importance of introducing the adolescents to the rich Indian culture and history at this age so that they inculcate human values and ethos early on, was highlighted in all the events and interactive workshops of the Summit. During the course of the Summit, the students engaged with participants from schools across the country and abroad in various events that helped foster a newer understanding of 21st-

century life skills, innovative programs for promoting values, gender sensitivity, health and wellbeing.

A Students Charter on Life Skills, Health, Safety and School Wellbeing-2020 was also drafted and came into effect at the conclusion of the 9th International Adolescent Summit on Life Skills, Health and Wellbeing, after extensive deliberations during the International Summit that facilitated the voice of school students from across the country who came together for the first time in addressing their opinions, needs and concerns regarding the core themes such as health and wellbeing.

'Not ideal' IPL timing responsible for growing injury list: Langer

PTI ■ BRISBANE

He loves the IPL but Australia coach Justin Langer on Wednesday questioned the timing of the last year's edition, which he believes could have been a contributing factor in the injury setbacks that both his and the Indian team have endured in the ongoing series.

The IPL was held in the September-November window in 2020 in the United Arab Emirates due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The lucrative tournament is usually held in India during the April-May window.

India have had a spate of injuries since the IPL and also in the current Australia series. Australia too had its share of injuries.

"It is really interesting how many injuries (it) has been throughout this summer. I can't help and think that the IPL this year (2020) was in reality, probably wasn't ideal timing for anyone, certainly for such a big series like this," Langer said at a virtual press conference.

The latest addition to the Indian injury list is Ravindra Jadeja, who was hit on his thumb, and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who has been ruled out of the last Test following an abdominal strain.

Earlier, KL Rahul, Mohammed Shami and Umesh Yadav were ruled out of the series due to the various injuries they suffered.

For Australia, David Warner was a big blow but he recovered in time for the last two Tests.

Langer was all praise for the IPL saying it helps in development of young players but was critical of the previous editions timing.

"I love the IPL, I look at IPL now like I used to look at county cricket for our young players. They go and play county cricket and it helps them (in) their cricket development enormously, I think it is the same with the IPL, helps their white-ball development."

"But the timing of



Hanuma Vihari receives treatment to a leg injury during final day play of the third Test at Sydney Cricket Ground AP

it...Because of what happened with Covid...Probably wasn't ideal, and I just wonder whether that is having an impact on the injuries that we are seeing for both teams throughout the summer, so I'm sure they'll review that," said the Australian head coach.

Asked how much the absence of the Bumrah-Jadeja duo will impact the contest, he said, "Hopefully, it (absence of

Bumrah and Jadeja) impacts it (the contest) a lot. But I have said this is going to be the survival of the fittest this summer."

"And I have said when I was asked at the start of the summer about Virat (Kohli) not being here...If you are taking your best players out of any team, whether it is our team or our opponent, it is going to have an impact or it is potentially going to have an impact," he signed off.

But Langer would rather focus on his team's resources than worry about how India would put together their playing XI in the fourth Test starting January 15 here.

"...Test cricket, like I keep saying survival of the fittest, and we can't concentrate on what India are doing, we just concentrate on (what) we are doing to make sure that we are up for the contest," he signed off.

'Paine is an outstanding leader'

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Australia coach Justin Langer on Wednesday unequivocally supported his under-fire skipper Tim Paine, calling him an "outstanding leader", who will remain in the top job for some more time despite his poor keeping and unsportsmanlike conduct in the third Test against India.

Paine was heavily criticised for sledging and yelling at Ravichandran Ashwin who batted pain and aches to help India draw the match on the fifth and final in Sydney. He also dropped three catches at crucial junctures.

But Paine has "100 per cent" backing of his coach.

"You have no idea how much faith I have in Tim Paine, he did not have his best day, no doubt about that, but after three years he has been outstanding as the Australian captain, everything he does," Langer said.

The chief coach was speaking two days ahead of the series-deciding fourth and final Test here.

"He (Paine) had a frustrating day, that cut him some slack surely. But having said that when you set a standard as high

as he does and as we do, we understand when you are criticised when we fall below that.

"It is not what we are about, but Tim Paine is an outstanding leader and will continue to be for some time to come yet, he has my 100 per cent support," added Langer.

'LOAD OF RUBBISH'

Justin Langer cannot believe the "absolute load of rubbish" that Steve Smith was trying to scuff up Rishabh Pant's guard in the drawn Sydney Test, and has called the criticism of his "quirks" way out of line and ludicrous.

Smith was accused of scuffing up the batsman's guard during the drinks break in the first session on Monday in the drawn Test. But Langer backed Smith to the hilt, coming down heavily on the criticism, mostly driven by fans online and some former players like Michael Vaughan.

"...I literally cannot believe some of the rubbish I read about Steve Smith. Absolute load of rubbish. I mean, if anyone knows Steve Smith, he is a bit quirky and he does some weird (stuff) and we have laughed about it for the last couple of years," Langer said.

The chief coach was speaking two days ahead of the series-deciding fourth and final Test here.

"He (Paine) had a frustrating day, that cut him some slack surely. But having said that when you set a standard as high

It's still not advantage Aus, believes Lyon

PTI ■ BRISBANE

It's still not advantage Australia, believes the country's leading spinner Nathan Lyon, despite playing the series-deciding fourth Test against an injury-ravaged Indian team at a venue where the home team's record is second to none.

The seasoned campaigner refused to overlook the grit and gumption shown by the Indians in the drawn third Test in Sydney.

"I wouldn't say that (Australia have the advantage). You look at the class throughout the Indian squad, yes they will be missing a couple of big players but they have got a talented squad they can pick from," Lyon said during a virtual press conference on Wednesday.

India will be forced to field a second-string bowling attack with all their premier pacers, including Jasprit Bumrah and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja ruled out with injuries.

"To be honest, we have to worry about our preparation. We can't look too far at what they are doing. As bowlers, we are very well suited for the Gabba and hopefully we can put them into play nice and early when we have the ball in hand."

Australia head to the venue on the back of a fine

record, having won 33, drawn 13, tied one and lost eight out of the 55 matches played at Brisbane.

"We do have an amazing record here at Gabba, we do have the confidence and we know how to play a really positive brand of cricket here at Brisbane. But we can't rest on that. We know how talented India are and how hungry they are to win this series."

Lyon was effusive in his praise for fellow off-spinner R Ashwin, adding that the Indian has done well to adapt to the Australian conditions.

"Ashwin has bowled very well, I have said throughout my career that he is a world class bowler. Absolutely incredible to watch, he has definitely adapted well coming in to Australia, so hats off to him."

One of the most successful spinners in the modern era, with 396 Test wickets to his name, Lyon will be eyeing his 400th scalp while playing in his 100th Test at the Gabba.

"I'm going to pinch myself when my name goes up alongside those guys (who have played 100 Tests). In my eyes those 12 players are absolute legends of Australian and world cricket, it's pretty amazing."

Reflecting on the highs and lows of his career, the off-spinner said he's far from being done and is more motivated than ever.

"There's been some highs and lows. Adelaide Test against India in 2014, that was probably the biggest high in my career but you look at Edgbaston and that is another amazing high, then you go to Leeds and it was the other end of the ladder."

"This is my 100th and I'm far from being done, I'm still as hungry as ever and want to go and play as much cricket as I can for Australia," Lyon said.

Harris will open if Pucovski is unfit

PTI ■ BRISBANE

Opener Will Pucovski has a partially dislocated shoulder and Marcus Harris would replace him if he fails to recover in time for the fourth and final Test against India here this week, Australia head coach Justin Langer said on Wednesday.

Pucovski suffered the injury during the Sydney Test, which was his debut in

the longest format. The 22-year-old was injured while diving on the field.

"Will had a sore shoulder before he fell, he was actually going to have a scan after that day's play anyway, just to see what was happening," Langer said at a virtual press conference.

"We will see how he pulls up today, we are really hopeful that he will get up and if he doesn't, then the obvious thing would be

Marcus Harris would come in as an opener," he added.

Langer said he is quite optimistic about the batsman pulling through.

"Will is a young guy, he has just played his first Test. So mentally he's going to be exhausted anyway.

We will keep an eye on how he pulls up today. With shoulders, as long as he can bat OK and catch, it's not as big a deal in Test cricket, we're really hopeful

he will get up, we will probably know by tonight," Langer added.

Pucovski, who has suffered numerous concessions, made an impressive start to his Test career, scoring a half-century on debut.

Harris has so far played nine Test matches for Australia scoring 385 runs, including two fifties, with the highest score of 79.

he will get up, we will probably know by tonight," Langer added.

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SPECIAL TRAINS

For the convenience of passengers, Railways have decided to run following Special Trains as per the schedule given below :-

05057/05058 Gorakhpur Jn.-Anand Vihar T.- Gorakhpur Jn. Special Express (Weekly)

Train No. 05057	↓ STATIONS	Train No. 05058	↑ STATIONS
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
---	20:55	GORAKHPUR JN.	07:20
02:25	02:35	LUCKNOW (NR)	01:55
10:40	----	ANAND VIHAR T.	17:10

DAYS OF RUN: 05057 Ex Gorakhpur Jn. from 28.01.2021 to till further advice on every Thursday and 05058 Ex Anand Vihar

T. from 27.01.2021 to till further advice on every Wednesday.

STOPPAGES: Khalilabad, Basti, Gonda Jn., Lucknow (NR), Moradabad & Ghaziabad stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

05025/05026 Mau Jn.-Anand Vihar T.-Mau Jn. Special Express (Bi-Weekly)

Train No. 05025	↓ STATIONS	Train No. 05026	↑ STATIONS
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
---	10:50	MAU JN.	05:40
18:40	19:00	LUCKNOW (NR)	20:50
03:00	----	ANAND VIHAR T.	13:25

DAYS OF RUN: 05025 Ex Mau Jn. from 24.01.2021 to till further advice on every Sunday & Tuesday and 05026 Ex Anand Vihar T. from 25.01.2021 to till further advice on every Monday & Friday.

STOPPAGES: Muhammadabad, Azamgarh, Shahganj Jn., Akbarpur, Faizabad Jn., Lucknow (NR), Kanpur Central, Aligarh Jn. & Ghaziabad stations.

ACCOMMODATION: AC 2 Tier, AC 3 Tier, Sleeper & Second Seating (Reserved).

09033/09034 Bandra Terminus-Gorakhpur-Bandra Terminus Superfast Anytodya (Weekly)

Train No. 09033	↓ STATIONS	Train No. 09034	↑ STATIONS
ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.	ARR. DEP.
---	05:10	BANDRA TERMINUS	14:25
09:10	09:20	LUCKNOW (NR)	10:00
15:45	----	GORAKHPUR JN.	03:25

DAYS OF RUN: 09033 Ex Bandra Terminus from 17.01.2021 to till further advice on every Sunday and 09034 Ex Gorakhpur

Jn. from 19.01.2021 to till further advice on every Tuesday.

STOPPAGES: Borivali, Vapi, Surat, Vadodara Jn., Ratlam Jn., Kota Jn., Bharatpur Jn., Achhnera Jn., Mathura Jn., Kasganj, Farrukhabad, Kanpur Central, Lucknow (NR), Gonda Jn., Balrampur, Siddharth Nagar & Anand Nagar stations.

ACCOMMODATION: Reserved Second Seating.

Note :- The above Special Trains will run with full reserved Accommodation.

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.

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