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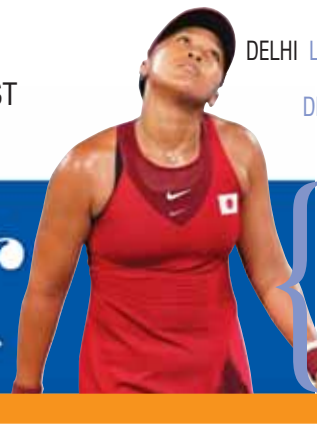


OSAKA OUT OF TOKYO OLYMPICS
12 SPORT

Mamata meets PM; chai pe charcha with Sonia today

Bengal CM on mission to unite Opp leaders

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee during their meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on a high-profile visit to the national Capital met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence on Tuesday ahead of a series of meeting with top Opposition leaders to prepare the strategy for a unified challenge to the BJP in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. On Wednesday, Mamata will hold "chai pe charcha" with Congress president Sonia Gandhi.

This was the Bengal Chief Minister's first meeting with the Prime Minister after the bitter Bengal election campaign.

Mamata told reporters after the meeting that there should be a Supreme Court-monitored enquiry into the Pegasus scandal involving Opposition leaders, two Union Ministers and 40 journalists revealed as potential targets of surveillance using Israeli Pegasus spyware that is sold only to Governments.

Mamata's nephew Abhishek Banerjee is among the potential targets whose name has surfaced as part of a worldwide investigation by a media consortium that includes India's *The Wire*. Mamata announced a judicial enquiry led by former Supreme Court judges on Monday.

Mamata described her meeting with the PM as a "courtesy visit" and said she discussed the Covid situation, the supply of vaccines and medicine to the State and also a proposal to rename Bengal as Bangla.

"I should not speak what the PM said," she told reporters when pressed for details.

Apart from Sonia, Mamata is scheduled to meet top Opposition leaders like NCP chief Sharad Pawar, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, Om Prakash Chautala, Shiv Sena leader Sanjay Raut, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and political strategist Prashant Kishor.

She will also meet leaders of the BSP and the RJD. After her meetings, the West Bengal CM is also planning to host a dinner for the leaders, sources added without divulging much detail of the timing and venue.

Mamata met senior Congress leaders Kamal Nath, Anand Sharma, and Abhishek Singhvi and on Tuesday.

This is the first of her series of meetings with senior political leaders after her Assembly poll victory in Bengal.

Nath said he had come to congratulate Mamata for her victory in the recent Assembly elections. "The strategy for 2024 will be discussed with Sonia. Mamata will meet Sonia," said Nath.

"We have not discussed any strategy. That will be discussed by the leader of our party. We just discussed the current situation and the issue of rising prices," Nath told media when asked about the meeting.

Nath said Mamata's victory in the Assembly polls has sent a message across the country.

BSY's Man Friday is K'taka new CM

Basavaraj Bommai, a Lingayat, to take oath as CM today

DEEPAK K UPRETI ■ NEW DELHI

Basavaraj S Bommai, 61, the State Home Minister, a "Lingayat" by caste and a close confidante of BS Yediyurappa was on Tuesday declared the new Chief Minister of Karnataka after BJP legislature party met at the State capital.

Bommai is expected to take oath of Chief Ministership on Wednesday.

The name of Bommai, the son of former State Chief Minister SR Bommai (a Janata parivar leader) who had joined the BJP in 2008, was proposed by Yediyurappa, the "Lingayat" strongman and former Chief Minister.

The new Chief Minister is a two-time MLC and three-time MLA from Shiggaon in Haveri district.

"It is a big responsibility in the given situation. I will strive to work for the welfare of the poor. It will be pro-people and pro-poor people governance," said the Karnataka CM-elect soon after he was elected to the post.

The outgoing Chief Minister, Yediyurappa, said, "We have unanimously elected Bommai as CM....we are very happy."

The MLAs' meeting at Bengaluru's Hotel Capitol that elected Bommai was attended by the Central observers — Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, G Kishan Reddy and general secretary and State-in-charge Arun Singh. Pradhan announced the name of Bommai as a successor to Yediyurappa amid loud cheers and clapping.

By picking-up Bommai, a Sadara "Lingayat", the BJP seemed to have satisfied the caste dynamics of Karnataka, pre-empted influential community's wrath, and agreed to Yediyurappa's choice of the CM candidate.

Yediyurappa himself belongs to the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community which is seen to be the BJP's core support base in Karnataka.

Newly elected Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai with outgoing State Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa during BJP Legislature Party meeting in Bengaluru on Tuesday PTI

1,629 new Covid cases reported from 30 dists

- TPR 2.59%
- Max 532 test +ve in Khordha
- 60 more die; toll mounts to 5,634
- 1,969 recover

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The State on Tuesday registered 1,629 new Covid-19 positive cases in the 30 districts and the State pool, with which the total tally mounted to 9,70,814.

A total of 62,686 samples were tested in the last 24 hours and the test positivity rate (TPR) was 2.59 per cent. The active cases stood at 17,746.

Out of the new cases, 939 were from quarantine and 690 local contacts.

Khordha district reported the day's highest 532 cases followed by Cuttack with 160.

The districts which reported below-100 cases were Puri with 96, Baleswar 93, Jajpur 84, Bhadrak 76, Jagatsinghpur 67, Mayurbhanj 53, Kendrapada 47, Angul 44, Dhenkanal 39, Nayagarh 38, Keonjhar 29, Subarnapur and Sundargarh 22 each, Kandhamal 16, Sambalpur 14, Rayagada 12, Bargarh 11, Nuapada 10, Ganjam eight, Nabarangpur six, Balangir, Kalahandi, Malkangiri and Jharsuguda five each, Koraput four, Boudh and Gajapati two each,

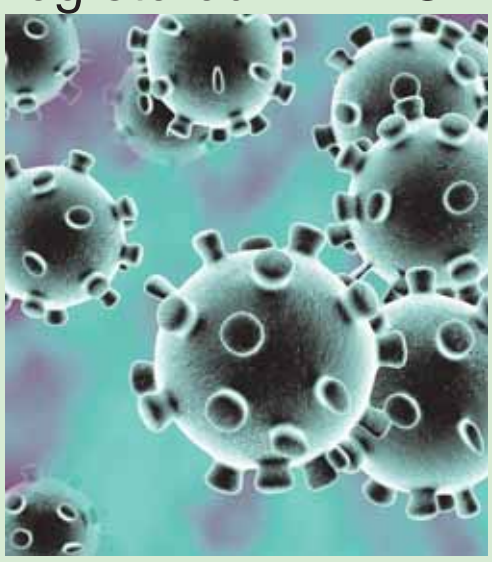
Besides, 113 cases were reported from the State pool.

Meanwhile, another 60 patients succumbed to the disease in the last 24 hours, surging the total death toll to 5,574 in the State, the Health and Family Welfare Department said.

The maximum 21 deaths were reported from Sundargarh district followed by Khordha with eight, Cuttack and Angul six each, Keonjhar and Puri six each, Boudh and Sambalpur four each, Bhadrak two and Jajpur, Jharsuguda, Kandhamal, Koraput, Nabarangpur and Nayagarh one each.

However, another 1,969 patients recovered on the day, increasing the total recoveries to 9,49,350.

233 new infections registered in BBSR



- 2,065 active cases
- 3 more deaths; 180 recover

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

State capital Bhubaneswar on Tuesday registered 233 new Covid-19 positive cases. With this, the total tally in the city increased to 98,585.

Out of the new cases, 178 were local contacts and 55 quarantine cases.

The local contacts included 18 cases in Patia, 13 in Chandrasekharpur, 10 in Nayapalli and nine each in Tankapani Road and Khandagiri. The active cases in the city stood at 2,065.

Meanwhile, three more patients succumbed to the disease in the city, with which the total death toll rose to 779.

However, 180 persons recovered on the day, increasing the total recoveries to 95,720.

Antibody weakens 2-3 months after both doses: Lancet study

Results based on immunisation with Pfizer and AstraZeneca jabs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Indicating that a booster dose is going to be the next in-thing after two mandatory jabs against Covid-19, a study published in *The Lancet* journal has found that the total antibody levels start to weaken just six weeks after both doses of immunisation with Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines. The antibody levels may also be reduced by more than 50 per cent over 10 weeks or 2-3 months, said researchers from University College London (UCL) in the UK.

They said if the antibody levels carry on dropping at this rate, there are concerns that the protective effects of the vaccines may also begin to wear off, particularly against new variants. But how soon that might happen cannot be predicted yet, they added.

The UCL Virus Watch study also found that antibody levels are substantially higher following two doses of the Pfizer vaccine compared to two shots of the AstraZeneca jab, known as Covishield in India. Antibody levels were also much higher in vaccinated people than in those with prior SARS-CoV-2 infection, they said.

"The levels of antibody following both doses of either the AstraZeneca or Pfizer vaccines were initially very high, which is likely to be an important part of why they are so protective against severe Covid-19," said Madhumita Shrotri from UCL Institute of Health Informatics in a statement.

"However, we found these levels dropped substantially over the course of two to three months," Madhumita Shotri added. Based on data from more than 600 people aged 18 and above, the findings of the study were consistent across all groups of people, regardless of age, chronic illnesses or sex, researchers said.

A medic inoculates a dose of Covid-19 vaccine to a beneficiary in New Delhi on Tuesday PTI

CAPSULE

IMF CUTS INDIA'S GDP GROWTH TO 9.5%

Washington: The International Monetary Fund cut its economic growth forecast for India to 9.5 per cent for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2022 as the onset of a severe second Covid-19 wave cut into recovery momentum.

HEALTH OF KALYAN SINGH CRITICAL

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh's former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh is on life support as his condition is critical, according to a medical bulletin by the Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences here on Tuesday. The 89-year-old BJP veteran was admitted to the ICU on July 4 due to an infection and reduced consciousness.

IMD: 381 MM RAINFALL IN DELHI HIGHEST FOR JULY

New Delhi: Monsoon may have arrived late in Delhi, but it is inundating the Capital now. The city has recorded 381 mm rainfall so far this month, the highest for July since 2003 and the second-highest ever. It is also the maximum rainfall in 24 hours in the month of July in eight years. In 2013, Delhi had received 123.4mm rainfall on July 21.

Govt asks for data on O_2 shortage deaths from States/UTs

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after denying any death due to oxygen shortage during the second wave of Covid-19, the Government has written to States/Union Territories seeking such data, according to Government sources. This data is likely to be presented in the ongoing Monsoon Session of Parliament, they added.

Detailed report on P5

Covid immunisation of 12-18 yrs group from Aug: Health Ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government is expected to begin vaccinating children against Covid-19 by next month, Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya told the BJP Parliamentary Party meeting on Tuesday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was also present at the meeting.

The Union Government had expressed confidence that it would be soon able to vaccinate children between 12 and 18 years of age.

Mandaviya said India is on course to become the largest vaccine producing country as more companies will get production licences.

Zydus Cadila, which is developing DNA vaccines, has concluded its trials for the 12-18 age group, and subject to statutory provisions, the vaccine may be available in the near future, the Centre had said.

Warrior horse statue not to be shifted

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The iconic warrior horse replica located at Master Canteen Square in the State capital city would not be shifted from the place, informed Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) Commissioner Sanjay Singh on Tuesday.

A discussion in this regard has been held at the Government level, he said.

Notably, a decision regarding shifting of the replica due to the ongoing Smart Janpath project had earlier triggered a controversy. The decision was taken by the State Government to relocate it to Raj Bhavan Square.

The Bhubaneswar Smart City Limited (BSCL) had proposed relocation of the sculpture, a prominent landmark in the city, for a multi-modal hub project at the Bhubaneswar railway station.

Politicians and sculptors and various organisations had opposed the move questioning its justification.

The Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) had erected the sandstone sculpture at Master Canteen Square in 1988. It was sculpted by late eminent sculptor Padma Vibhushan Raghunath Mohapatra.

The Utkal Sammilani expressed its happiness over the decision not to relocate the heritage replica. Sammilani Mancheswar branch president Dillip Dashsharma conveyed his gratefulness to the Chief Minister for reversing the earlier move.

Ramamurti Dora no more

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha State Bharat Scouts and Guides State Secretary Ramamurti Dora passed away on Tuesday after prolonged illness at his Old Town residence here.

His son T Prasad Rao Dora, a leading personality in the country's cooperation movement, performed the last rites of his father.

State Scouts and Guides President (I/C) Justice Manorajan Mohanty and State Chief Commissioner Dr KP Mishra, Bhubaneswar Central MLA Ananta Narayan Jena, former BMC Corporator Litu Mohasupkar, SGF State Secretary and actor Rusi Pattnaik, HQ Commissioner and film star Jyoti Mishra, SOC Guide Anamika Das, among others, paid homage to the late Dora.

Rainfall in 48 hours likely in several parts of State: IMD

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A low pressure area has formed over the north Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood under the influence of a cyclonic circulation over the same region, said the Regional Centre of the India Meteorological Department (IMD) here on Tuesday. The fresh low pressure system is likely to trigger light to moderate and heavy rainfall in several parts of the State in the next 48 hours. The IMD issued yellow warning predicting heavy rainfall in some places in the State till July 30.

The IMD also warned fishermen not to venture into north Bay of Bengal between July 28 and 30 as squally wind reaching up to a speed of 40-50 kmph is likely to prevail during this time.

The forecast issued for Wednesday said heavy rainfalls are very likely at one or two places in the districts of Sundargarh, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Baleswar, Jajpur and Bhadrak.

On July 29, heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places in the districts of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Baleswar, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada and Dhenkanal. Heavy rainfall is also likely at one or two places in the districts of Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Angul, Deogarh, Sundargarh and Sambalpur.

On July 30, heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places in the districts of Sundargarh, Deogarh, Sambalpur, Angul, Keonjhar and Mayurbhanj. Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Baleswar, Bhadrak, Jajpur, Kendrapada, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khordha, Jharsuguda, Subarnapur, Bargarh and Dhenkanal.

On July 31, heavy to very heavy rainfall is very likely at one or two places in the districts of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Bargarh, Sambalpur, Deogarh and Keonjhar. Heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over the districts of Mayurbhanj, Baleswar, Jajpur, Bhadrak and Angul.

PIL filed in ACF's death case, seeks CBI probe

PNS ■ CUTTACK

Even as the death of Paralakhemundi Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Soumya Ranjan Mohapatra is still shrouded in mystery, a PIL was filed in the Orissa High Court on Tuesday seeking a CBI or SIT inquiry probe into the case.

The PIL filed by Bharatiya Bikash Parisad (BBP) State president Surendra Panigrahi has made the State Home Secretary, Chief Secretary, the Central Government, the State Director General of Police, the Gajapati SP and the Paralakhemundi police station IIC opposite parties.

Notably, Soumya Ranjan had been rescued in a half-charred state at his Government quarters in Paralakhemundi on July 12. He succumbed to the burn injuries while undergoing treatment at a private hospital in Cuttack on July 13.

Family members of Soumya Ranjan had alleged involvement of his wife Bidyabharati Panda, Gajapati DFO Sangram Keshari Behera and a cook in murdering him.

As per reports, the police giving a clean chit to some of the accused, without completing the investigations has raised many eyebrows and shocked the deceased's family members. The family lawyer has questioned the police investigations.

The family maintains that the ACF was killed and a thorough and professional investigation is needed to bring the culprits to book.

The postmortem report of the deceased which was released on Monday stated that the OFS officer had died of burn injuries and he had 95 burns. But the family members have been alleging that Soumya was killed.

Notably, a murder case was filed against the deceased's widow Bidyabharati Panda, Gajapati DFO Behera and his cook.

However, last week, the DFO was given a clean chit in the case by the Gajapati SP stating that the former had no relation with Bidyabharati and has no role to play in the ACF's death.

Paddy procurement mess: Cong seeks Lokayukta probe

Also demands withdrawal of 3 farm Bills

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Congress on Tuesday demanded that to prove transparency in paddy procurement process, the State Government should refer a case of inquiry to the Lokayukta as there has been large-scale corruption in procurement involving officials from mandis to the State Secretariat with a secret deal with traders, middlemen and the Government.

Party State spokespersons Manoj Mohapatra and Dr Govinda Bhuyan and Kissan Cell chief Amiya Pattanayak said both the Modi and Naveen Patnaik Governments are responsible for farmers' sufferings. The Union Government should immediately withdraw the anti-people farm Bills, for which farmer organisations are continuing their protest in New Delhi since November 26 last. The leaders also said that while farmers are in agitation, the BJD MPs are maintaining a stoic silence on the issue in Parliament.

Mohapatra said that while three lakh genuine registered farmers have been left out from the paddy procurement process, the Chief Minister is only writing letters to the Centre.

The party leaders demanded that the date for registration of crop insurance be extended from July 31 to August 31 and farmers' registration for Kharif paddy procurement also be extended from August 15 till September.

Demanding withdrawal of the three farm Bills, abolition of the token system in paddy procurement, waiver of farm loans, to validate lapsed tokens of last session, loan to farmers with no interest and fixing the paddy MSP at Rs 2,930, the Pradesh Youth Congress staged a rally before the RDC in Samblapur led by the State president Dr Smruti Ranjan Lenka and assistant State observer Riyaz Ansari.

3 including woman violate Covid norms, enter Gundicha Temple

More surprisingly, police facilitate their visit

PNS ■ PURI

In spite of the ban on public entry into temples across the State due to the Covid-19 pandemic, a video showing three persons from outside Odisha entering into the Gundicha Temple, Lord Jagannath's aunt's house, here on Tuesday raised questions about the security measures at the shrine.

The video showed the three devotees, including a woman and another person in police uniform, entering into the shrine through the Singhadwar (main entrance).

More surprisingly, a few local police personnel were seen facilitating the devotees in their visit to the temple. After coming out of the Gundicha Temple, the devotees boarded the policemen's vehicle bearing registration number OD02AS 3536.

The devotee in the police uniform was identified as Kulamani Panda. However, when asked, he refused to have entered the temple.

Notably, the recently-concluded Rath Yatra of Lord Jagannath in Puri this year was held without public participation due to the pandemic like last year.

GROUP CLASH IN CITY

Shops of prime accused razed to ground

Dispute over shops led to violence

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Commissionerate police on Tuesday used bulldozers and razed to ground three shops belonging to Raja Behera alias Raja, the prime accused in brazen attack on a rival group of youths on Monday at the bustling Master Canteen Square, which had left four youths seriously injured.

Raja ran three shops on a disputed land near the city railway station. Following the attack which was the fallout of a dispute over these shops, the police took action.

Earlier, police had detained Raja and launched a hunt to nab the accused involved in the brutal attack on the injured youths in the Master Canteen area under the Kharavel Nagar police station.

Notably, four youths sustained grievous injuries after a group of around 10 to 12 miscreants attacked them with lethal weapons near the city railway station.

According to eyewitness accounts, a clash between Raja and one Naresh of Mali Sahi ensued at a betel shop located in front of the railway station. Later, some miscreants, armed with swords and iron rods, chased Naresh and his friends and assaulted them with the weapons mercilessly.

"A clash between two groups ensued at a betel shop located in front of the railway station. When we received the information, we rushed to the spot immediately. One accused involved in the incident has been arrested and the others have been identified and will be rounded up soon. Further investigation into the matter is on," police had said.

ATAL FACULTY DEV PROG

Continuing edu for engineers begins at IIT BBS

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The AICTE ATAL Faculty Development Programme on "Effective Team Work" scheduled from July 26 to 30 was inaugurated at the School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Management (SHSSM) of IIT Bhubaneswar on Monday.

Corporate Vice President, and Managing Director of Cadence Design Systems India Jaswinder S Ahuja graced the event as the chief guest for the occassion. Among others, Prof Anil Sahasrabudhe, Chairman, AICTE an Dr Mamta Rani Agarwal, Adviser-I, ATAL Academy attended as guests.

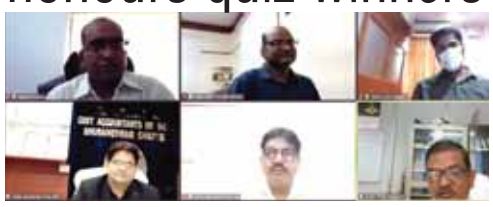
"Through our very effective continuing education programme, the IIT Bhubaneswar has always been leading the path in providing continuing education opportunities to engineers from in duty and very importantly the teachers. We complement AICTE for the very effective ATAL FDP initiative and glad to participate in the endeavour," said Director IIT BhubaneswarProf RV Raja Kumar.

"Through our very effective continuing education programme, the IIT Bhubaneswar has always been leading the path in providing continuing education opportunities to engineers from in duty and very importantly the teachers"

Under the active guidance of the Director and ample support from Prof Swarup Kumar Mohapatra, Dean, Continuing Education and Head, SHSSM, the programme is being coordinated by Dr Punyashree Panda from SHSSM. Approximately 200 faculty participants from AICTE recognised institutions from all over India have registered in the week-long event.

ICAI BBSR honours quiz winners

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR



The Institute of Cost Accountants of India-Bhubaneswar Chapter organised Award Ceremony of "All Odisha Online Commerce Quiz Competition" on July 25 in Zoom platform.

In total, from +2 category around 1,900 students and from +3 category around 3,100 students had participated in the quiz and 50 students had been shortlisted as winners.

Rajya Sabha member Sujit Kumar graced the occasion as chief guest while Director (Finance) , OHPC and OPGC Ltd. , CFO-OCPL and former president, ICAI Pravakar Mohanty graced as guest of honour. Prof Sanjay Kumar Satapathy graced as special guest.

CMA Mukesh Chaubey, Chairman of the Chapter delivered welcome address.

CMA Saktidhar Singh, CMA Damodar Mishra, CMA Ajay Kumar Samal, among others were present.

Sarangi meets Shah

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Bhubaneswar BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi on Tuesday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi and appraised him about the various works that are being undertaken in the Bhubaneswar parliamentary constituency for the welfare of the residents.

Sarangi also shared her 'Annual Report Card' on her activities with him.

On Monday, Sarangi had also met Union Highway Minister Nitin Gadkari and thanked him for considering the requests of people of the Bhubaneswar constituency. All proposals for flyovers, FOBs andVUPs worth Rs 145.28 crore stand sanctioned. She also shared her Annual Report Card with him and sought his support and guidance.

Paresh Nayak passes away

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Eminent social activist, well-known organiser, reformist, former BJP State general secretary, former RSS Pracharak, Odisha International Centre president and founder of many social organisations Paresh Nayak (62) passed away on Monday evening due to multi-organ failure.

Nayak, a bachelor, was undergoing treatment at the CARE Hospital here. Condolences for him from several quarters poured in after the news of his demise spread.

'Hold simultaneous panchayat, urban polls'

BJP meets SEC for immediate step

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A BJP delegation on Tuesday met and discussed with the State Election Commission (SEC) and demanded immediate announcement of dates for both panchayat and urban local bodies' elections simultaneously. The delegation stated that the elections are pending since 2018 and the State Government does not want to hold them fearing the ruling party's debacle. The SEC should not be biased by the Government and should not violate the spirit of the 74th Constitutional Amendment and the Article 243(U) and Article (E) of the Constitution to hold polls in time.

Because of the absence of elected representatives, the bureaucrats rule the roost and siphon funds, alleged the delegation. Even funds sent by the Centre for housing, drinking water, sewerage, lighting and health services do not reach people, it said.

The delegation included Pitambar Acarya, Golak Mahapatra, MLA Prakash Soren, Jagannath Pradhan and Shankar Parida.

DAV schools celebrate Kargil Vijay Diwas

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The students and staffs of the DAV School Chandrasekharpur observed the Kargil Vijay Divas on Monday and offered rich tributes to the brave soldiers remembering their supreme sacrifice for the nation. Col Prasun Kumar Panda joined as chief guest and addressed the students and staffs on a virtual platform. He was also felicitated by the school.

Similarly, the 22nd Kargil Vijay Divas was also celebrated at the DAV Public School Pokhariput . The teachers in charge of NCC and Scouts and Guides were present and offered guard of honour to the martyrs. While students participated virtually, successful students of different competitions were also felicitated.

Cong blocks U'kote-N'rangpur NH, demands adequate supply of urea to farmers

PNS ■ NABARANGPUR

The Congress under the leadership of former MP Pradeep Majhi blocked the Umarkote-Jeypore NH for several hours on Tuesday demanding adequate supply of urea.

Majhi demanded immediate release of urea to farmers as it has been their demand since long. After sometimes, the local administration rushed to the spot and assured the agitators to provide fertilisers before July 30.

If the promise was not fulfilled, from Saturday onwards, the Congress will go to streets, disrupting vehicular movement and closing all business establishments of the district, said Majhi.

Nabarangpur district has seen a shortage of urea since the beginning anf farmers are waiting for urea after transplantation and beausaning of paddy.

While the LAMPs are not being supplied with adequate fertilisers, private dealers are selling urea at inflated prices. It is so because due to lack of administrative control over the dealers, said Majhi.

Head Clerk's ₹85L assets detected

RI held taking bribe

PNS ■ CUTTACK

The Vigilance police on Tuesday conducted simultaneous house searches on the properties of Dillip Kumar Deb, Head Clerk in the office of Dhankauda Block Education Officer (BEO) in Sambalpur district, on the allegation of possession of assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.Assets of more than Rs 85 lakh were detected.

In another operation by the Vigilance on the day, Sunil Kumar Digal, Revenue Inspector of Gudari RI Circle under Khajuripada tehsil in Kandhamal district, was caught red-handed and arrested while demanding and accepting bribe amount of Rs 3,000 from the complainant to furnish physical verification of his land.

Pegasus spyware: 'Big Brother' watching you

ABASH PARIDA

Nineteen Eighty-Four', a dystopian social science fiction by GeorgeOrwell depicts the future world. The novel spins around an imaginedfuture where most parts of world are in trap of war, denialism andGovernment surveillance. Ingsoc, the ruling party, controls adystopian country named Oceania by constantly watching everyindividual through a series of tele-screens. Every movement ismonitored. The ruling party claims that this surveillance is necessary-for the greater good of people and world. Big Brother, the leader ofthe ruling party, never comes directly in the script but his face'sposter with tag line " Big Brother is watching You" is plastered intele-screens and in displays. This is to remind the people of Oceaniathat they are being watched everywhere and every time. Further theruling party deploys the Thought Police, the secret police of Oceaniato monitor and punish the originality and independent thinking whichare disavowed and disparaged by the Government.

The lexicon "Big brother is watching you" is back again. Surveillancecontroversy and snooping through software named as Pegasus is the most discussed topic in India now. It is reported that a Paris based medianon-profit Forbidden Stories and Amnesty International have exposedthousands of phone numbers across the world which have been targetedby the Pegasus. Currently, it is assumed that a leaked database of50,000 is accessed by Forbidden Stories that have been targeted byPegasus. They have shared all these data with some leading globalmedia organisations such as The Guardian, The Washington Post and The Wire. This hard work investigation is named as Pegasus Project. The Pegasus Project is a collaborative investigation that involves morethan 80 journalists from 17 news organisations in 10 countriescoordinated by Forbidden Stories with the technical support of AmnestyInternational's Security Lab. It is also reported that manyGovernments in world were using it against people, who could be thepotential threat like terrorists. But ironically, it is alleged thatit has been used against civil society, politicians, journalists,lawyers, activists and ruling Government Ministers.

Pegasus is a malicious software or a spyware programme developed byIsraeli firm NSO Group. It is aimed to help the Governments across theworld to tackle national security and counter terrorist activities.The NSO group claims that only Governments are entitled to purchaseand use the spyware. Individuals and organisations are barred from theservice.

Pegasus has all the potential to hack any phone or can gain access todevice in a covert form. It collects all the information and sends itback to the person using that spyware. It controls phone's camera,contact list, stored data, microphone and almost everything in phone.In its earlier version, Pegasus was used as Spear Phishing. In thisprocess of malware infection, Pegasus sends a link, and if the targetclicks on the link, the malware allows the surveillance to beinstalled on the target's phone. The links were in the form of textmessages or emails. The latest version is so powerful that humaninteraction is not needed to install the surveillance in target user'sphone. This is called as Zero Clicks Attack.

It is alleged that the spyware has been used by many authoritariancountries to target human rights activists, lawyers and journalists.The Pegasus Project targets India's current Government alleging thesame. The ruling Government confronts the allegation by saying this asa fabricated and evidence- less project. However, the AmnestyInternational has stood in its findings.

Amidst all this, a new concern is popped out. That is our privacy. Asof now The Wire has revealed as many as 136 individuals' names aretargeted by the Pegasus Spyware in India. This snooping is lawfullydone as claimed by the Government. But the laws like the InformationTechnology Act, 2000 and the Telegraph Act, 1885 deal withsurveillance of all electronic communication and interception ofcalls. These two laws can be applied only in conditions like publicemergency or the security of the State and to bring legal frameworkfor electronic surveillance where data can be intercepted. So Pegasuscan be used if the conditions mentioned here are present in India.Further to this new eco systems to protect data and to secure peoplefrom cybercrimes, the National Cyber security Coordination Centre(NCCC), National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal and Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) have been introduced by the Government. WhatsApp claimed that as many as 1,400 users in 20 countries, including many Indian journalists and activists, had been targeted by Pegasus in 2019. Many crucial decisions were taken by the Government related to national security, judgment and on religion since 2019 in India. It is reported that opposition parties in India claim thesedecisions were manipulated or constructed under the force ofsurveillance. In fact, it is also alleged that many State Governmentshad been toppled by snooping through Pegasus. Now the Government has to come forward with a clean image. If the Government is really keen to create a new eco system to secure data and rights of Indians, then it has to prove it. Now the baton moves from protect the individual-privacy to save democracy.

The (mis)use of Pegasus is really surprising and disturbing. Thekernel of truth must come out. Is another Big Brother watching us? We don't need Orwell's Big Brother in our real lives.

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S'garh missing minor girl goes untraced after week

Search on, say town police

MALAY RAY ■ SUNDARGARH

A minor girl of Sundargarh who had gone to attend her tuition a week ago, went missing. The Sundargarh Town police have registered a kidnapping case and conducted a search operation to trace her.

According to sources, the 14-year-old girl was residing with his parents and brother at Baunsapara under Town police station in Sundargarh. She studies in class IX in a missionary school at Sundargarh.

She was regularly going to her tuition by bicycle at 6 am in morning to Kendupada for two hours. On July 21, she had also gone to her tuition at 6 am by bicycle but had not returned to her home in usual time.

When she did not return in time, the family members got worried and went to Kendupada and asked the tuition teacher about her. The tuition teacher told them that she had returned home after the tution was over at 8 am. The family members then searched her in the house of her friends and relatives and also at different places but could not locate her. Finding no other alternative, the father of the minor girl lodged an FIR in Town police station on July 21, about missing of his daughter.

Sources said, the minor girl also personally was not using a mobile phone and had also not carried mobile while he had gone to tution on July 21,which has further posed challenge for police team of Town police, to trace her.

Town PS IIC Suryakanti Das, said, "We are working hard to locate her."

Fertiliser crisis looms, farmers in dire straits in Subarnapur

Agriculture Dept fails to rise to occasion when agri activities gain momentum

SRIKUMAR MAHANTA ■ SONEPUR

Fertiliser scarcity has come back to haunt Subarnapur farmers during the troubled times of Covid -19 with repeated shutdowns and lockdown.

The shortage of fertilisers has cast a cloud on timely sowing of paddy and other crops during this season in the district.

Scarcity of the essential agricultural inputs is not a new problem for farmers of Subarnapur who struggle with the crisis every year.

President of the district unit of Krushak Sangha Kishore Hota alleged that thousands of farmers are unable to procure the requisite quantity of fertilisers due to short supply by the Agriculture Department. Many farmers are being forced to buy fertilisers at exorbitant rates from black marketers and hoarders.

Sources said while the livelihood of many farmers is at stake,several pleas for adequate fertiliser supply have fallen on the deaf ears of the authorities.

Goutam Bagarty, a farmer of Titheipali village, who has cultivated paddy over four acres of land, said, "I came to Tarbha town to purchase fertiliser but failed. The paddy saplings in my field will perish if I don't get fertiliser soon."

Following the recent rain, farmers have started agricultural activities with a hope of bumper harvest. But the fertilizer crisis has made them worried.

Farmer leader Mitrabrata Mishra said the scarcity during the crucial stage of cultivation will affect crop yield in the district. If the authorities do not act fast, paddy saplings over vast tracts of farmland will wither away, he added.

Woman, 2 daughters die in road mishap in Kalahandi; 2 injured

PNS ■ BHAWANIPATNA

A woman and her two children died and two others were injured on Tuesday in a road accident near Chancher under the Kesinga police limits. The accident took place on NH-26.

Kesinga PS IIC Satya Kumar Nanda said five of a family and the driver were going home to Titilagarh from Bhawanipatna in the evening while it was raining.

The car hit a tree near Chancher, 20 km from Bhawanipatna and Anandini Mishra, 38, and her two daughters Roji, 11, and Elli, 9, died on the spot. Her nephew and driver were seriously injured and hospitalised at Kesinga.

State draws roadmap for attaining SDGs

PMU comprising experts to plan, monitor activities

TATHYA ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Government has initiated a process for setting up of a dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) for achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs) 2030 in a time bound manner.

The Planning and Convergence Department, under the guidance ofDevelopment Commissioner Pradeep Jena, has prepared a detailed roadmap to achieve the indicators mentioned under the SDGs.

According to sources, the department has floated a tender inviting anexpert agency to set up the PMU at its office for proper planning,monitoring and coordination of the work plan for achievement of SDGs.

The PMU will comprise a multi-disciplinary project team of 10 teammembers led by a leader, who will be a master degree from a top 10NIRF or international ranked institution along with post-educationexperience.The PMU will have experts from the field of environment, social andeconomic along with three consultants and three data analysts, thesources said.

All the 10 team members of the PMU will be deployed on full-time basisfor a period of three years at the Planning and ConvergenceDepartment.

The team will optimally utilise various databases on the developmentand socio - economic indicators at State and district level maintainedby various agencies for strategic planning. The entire team willprepare required periodic analytical reports on SDG goals at the Stateand district levels, they said.

Odisha's performance in achieving the sustainable development goalshas increased by 10 score points in the year 2020. The State's SDGperformance score increased to 61 in the year 2020 from 51 in 2019.

However, the score is not up to the mark in many goals fixed by theNiti Aayog. The overall rank of Odisha has fallen a few notches downto 19th rank in 2020 from 15th slot the previous year.

Though its composite score has improved from 58 to 61, putting itamong the performers bracket, it remains among bottom five Statesalong with Nagaland and Chhattisgarh. In the population below thepoverty line, households covered by health insurance and constructionof pucca houses, the State has shown no improvement. Similarly,employment provided against demand under MGNREGA has seen a marginal drop.

The SDG India Index- which has been developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), United Nations in India, and Global Green Growth Institute, tracks progress of all States and UTs on 100 indicators drawn from the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation's National Indicator Framework (NIF).

Rourkela Cong demands MLA Sarada's dismissal

For continuing as Dist Planning Board chief

PNS ■ ROURKELA

Under the leadership of Rourkela DCC chief George Tirkey, the Congress party staged demonstration on Monday at Ambedkar Chowk, Uditnagar demanding early dismissal of Rourkela MLA Sarada Nayak from the State Assembly for enjoying office of the profit.

As alleged by the Congress party, Nayak who was elected to Odisha Assembly in May 2019 simultaneously assumed the office of Chairman, Sundargarh District Planning Board since August 2019. As the Chairman he is being given the status of State Minister along with all other facilities, which is violation of Office of Profit rule, the agitators said.

Along with Nayak 11 more MLAs of BJD are also enjoying dual positions in their respective district. So, considering a petition the Orissa High Court has asked the Governor of Odisha to take a decision regarding the Membership of these MLAs as their appointments are completely illegal, the Congress members alleged.

They urged the Governor to take early decision to dismiss Nayak.

3 scribes held for extortion from truck driver in Jajpur

PNS ■ JAJPUR

The Dharmasala police on Monday night arrested three journalists of a web channel for allegedly extorting money from a truck driver near Jaraka in Jajpur district.

The accused were identified as Sanjay Kumar Mishra, Tushar Khuntia and Satya Ranjan Padhi. On the basis on an FIR filed by Jeevan Das of the People for Animals organisation, police have registered a case and forwarded the trio to a court.

According to reports, the truck carrying 18 cattle was heading towards Jharkhand from Bhubaneswar with the permission of Khandagiri police. The accused intercepted the vehicle on NH-16 near Jaraka and created ruckus by demanding money from the driver. Being informed about the incident, police reached the spot and tried to resolve the matter.

However, the three freed the cattle from the truck, following which they were arrested.

JSPL TRB Iron Ore Mines holds vax camp for elderly

PNS ■ ROURKELA

The Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) organised a vaccination programme for senior citizens at its operational area. As many as 143 elderly persons of the peripheral villages of Tensa in Sundargarh district were immunised.

The programme was held at the JSPL's TRB Iron Ore Mines in association with the district administration. The beneficiaries were above 60 years of age and were administered second dose of the vaccine.

"Since we are living in inaccessible terrains of this hilly region, it becomes extremely difficult for us to reach the distant vaccination centres; thanks to TRB Iron Ore Mines for this support,"said Manu Oram of Bandal village.

Business Head of TRB Iron Ore mines Pramod Patra said, "As community health is our top priority, we want 100% vaccination in all our operational villages."

'Reconsider OBC quota in NEET'

K'handi OBC Cell warns of stir if demand not met

PNS ■ BHAWANIPATNA

The OBC Cell of Kalahandi on Sunday threatened to take to streets if the Government does not reconsider its decision on abolishing reservation for the other backward community (OBC) students in medical colleges of the State who appear through the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET).

The members of OBC in a meeting held at Kesinga said the Central Government had dashed the hope of thousands of students by abolishing the reservations.

OBC Cell convenor Suresh Rao said, "Denial of reservations to OBCs in State medical institutions in all India quota, being administered by the Government of India, violates the very objective of the 93rd Constitutional Amendment and is a barrier to access medical education for deserving OBC candidates."

He further threatened to agitate if the Government does not reconsider its decision. OBC leader of district Nilamani Sahu also spoke.

B'luru forums donate N95 masks to N'pada

PNS ■ NUAPADA

Bhumi and Volunteer group @CovidRural, two voluntary forums of Bengaluru have donated 15,000 N95 masks to the health authorities of Nuapada district.

Two other forums, United Way and Crypto Relief India, in association with CovidRural had already supplied 35 D type 46.7 Jumbo empty cylinders to the district earlier.

These forums getting support from various donors and larger community of supporters have extended help to almost all the districts and Taluk Government hospitals of Odisha with an objective to improve the capacity of public hospitals during Covid-19.The District Press Club (DPC), Nuapada is coordinating with these forums to mobilise the support for the district. "After a discussion with the CDMO, we had requested the donors to provide 15,000 N 95 masks, which have now arrived at Khariar. It will be handed over to the CDMO as suggested by the Nuapada DM," informed DPC president Ajit Panda.

Many people like Vinay Ramesh, Prashanth Vasudevan, Nitin Seshadri, Aswin and Karthik are volunteering their services for coordinating between the nodal and district-level groups and the donors for delivering the consignments to the Government hospitals.

Paradip teacher remembered on 11th-day ritual

PNS ■ PARADIP

Sadananda Lenka, a senior teacher of SSVM Paradip and well known English teacher in the locality died prematurely on July 16. On the occasion of 11th day of death , a memorial meeting was held by Purva Chatra Parishad (Ex Students Union) on Monday morning in the school premises.

Dr Debadutta Samantray, secretary of School Executive Commitee, Principal, teachers and former students joined and expressed their tributes for the departed soul.

Colleague Bhimsen Nath Sharma expressed his deep sorrow and grief over Lenka's demise. Pradhan Acharya Manoj Ranjan Sethy, Vice Principal Sushree Mamata Kar and PET Teacher Pradipta Nayak, Music teacher Sanjit Jena, former Students Union secretary Bajarang Swain spoke.

Some former students like Sairaj Pinaki Rout, Suvendu Shekhar Sasmal, Janmenjay Panda and Kamal Lochan Parida shared their memories with Guruji and his teachings and guidance.

Secretary Bajrang Swain declared to give a financial assistance to the bereaved family on behalf of Purva Chatra Parishad. The meeting was coordinated by Dibya Darsi Parida, Sahil Kumar Lenka, Samresh, Abinas and many former students.

B'pur scribes decry attack on colleagues

PNS ■ BRAHMAPUR

Journalists and people from a cross section of the society strongly condemned the attack on tthree scribes here on Sunday.

A journalist, Prahallad Sahu, along with two other scribes were brutally attacked by miscreants belonging to a family at Badriraj Nagar 11nd Lane under the Gosaninuagaon police station while they were collecting news pertaining to a domestic feud.

It was learnt that a married woman staying separately in a rented house because of the domestic violence went to sit on a dharna in front of her in-laws' house protesting harassment and even wanted to forcibly enter into the in-laws' house.

When a tussle ensued between the woman and the in-laws and the woman started telling her side of the story to the media, her brother-in-laws reportedly attacked the reporters. Sahu received severe injuries in his face and nose.

After Sahu filed a complaint at the Gosaninuagaon PS, police brought the woman's brother -in-law Ramananda Sagar to the police station and registered a case against him.

Being informed about the incident working Journalists of the city assembled before the Gosaninugaon Police Station in protest and demanded immediate action against the culprit.

GI unit sealed in Jajpur

PNS ■ JAJPUR

The Dharamsala police and tehsil administration have sealed a GI factory near Rathia in Jajpur district after Dharamsala PS IIC Saroj Kumar Sahu launched a surprise attack on the unit.

The company, which is run by the Amaresh Industries, imports iron ore and converts it into steel and GI material and supplies them to various regions. The issues related to alleged incorrect transactions. The company authorities were unable to submit the required documents.

The police informed the tehsil administration and Dharamsala Additional Tehsildar Shital Agrawal arrived at the spot and sealed the factory.

However, further investigation into the matter was underway. It was learned that action would be taken after the investigation.

Child trafficking racket busted in Rourkela

Seven including five women, arrested

AUROBINDA DAS ■ ROURKELA

The Plant Site police here busted a child trafficking racket by arresting seven persons, including five women, in this connection. Later in the day, all the accused were forwarded to court.

The nabbed accused were identified as Seema Agrawal from Janata Niwas lane, Sarita Agrawal, Nita Agrawal from DAV School lane, Asha Devi from Gurudwara road, Nikhil Agrawal from DAV School lane, Sumit Agrawal from Power House road and Sheela Agrawal from Bishra Dahara road.

Nita Agrawal and son Nikhil and Sarita Agrawal and son Sumit were the main accused.

Police said the accused were selling a girl child for Rs 40,000 and a boy child for Rs 4 lakh in Jharkhand and Raigarh of Chhattisgarh.

After contacting poverty-stricken families in Rourkela, the accused used to lure them with money and buy children.

Three days back, Sangeeta and Nita contacted one Seema Khuntia staying near the Vaishnodevi temple at Timber Colony. They lured her with money and persuaded her to sell her one-and-a-half-year-old granddaughter. Seema agreed to hand over the child as the accused also promised her to facilitate better living for the kid.

As per the plan, Seema along with the child reached the Idga Ground on Mahtab Road at around 8 pm on Monday and found Sarita, Seema Agarwal and another youth there. As the woman who contacted Seema Khuntia was not present, she refused to hand over the child initially. Later, she agreed after much persuasion.

When Seema asked for the promised amount, the two women asked her to reach another location. When she did not find the duo there, she lodged a complaint at the Plant Site police station. After preliminary investigations, police arrested the seven accused while another managed to give a slip.

POLICE EXCESS ON LAWYER

Soro court paralysed as advocates agitate

Suspension of concerned police personnel sought

UBACHAK MOHANTY ■ BALESWAR

The lawyers of the Soro court are up in arms against police excess against a colleague and his son and demanding suspension of the police personnel involved in the event have been abstaining from court work since Monday.

Alleging that one of their colleagues and his son were brutally assaulted by police including of Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar and Soro in the Soro police station for none of their faults or involvement in any crime, they demanded that the police personnel involved in the atrocity be suspended.

According reports a police team from Nayapalli, Bhubaneswar in connection with an alleged dowry torture had carried out raids in a house with the help of local Soro police on July 4 night about 3.30 am .

They wanted the landlord in this connection. However, in the absence of the landlord the police had a heated exchange of words with tenant Dhiren Das (62) who is an advocate.

He along with his son were brought to police station and thrashed , alleged president of Balasore Bar Association Manoj Nayak.

"We approached Superintendent of Police, IG Eastern range, but no action has been taken. Only they transferred the IIC and one SI of Soro PS. But we want all, including the Nayapalli police who had come here, to be suspended. Departmental proceedings as well as legal action should be initiated against them," said Nayak.

He further threatened that from Thursday the Baleswar courts would also be paralsed due to abstention of advocates.

2nd wave still not over, 22 dists see rise in cases: Ministry

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Overall Covid-19 cases may have been showing a declining trend, but there are 22 districts— 7 from Kerala, 5 from Manipur, 3 in Meghalaya among others in the country where an increasing trend in cases has been reported in the last 4 weeks. It is a cause of concern, the Union Health Ministry said as it warned the public that the second Covid wave is still not over.

"There has been a consistent decline in the weekly average in the COVID cases...But if we compare the rate of decline in cases, from earlier to now, its decrease remains the area of concern. We're in talks with states in this regard," Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary, Union Health Ministry , said at a press conference here.

He said, "There are still 62 districts in the country where over 100 cases are reported every day. These cases are found in a localised and limited set of areas of these districts."

The rate of decline of cases has however slowed down which is a matter of concern, cautioned the official.

Echoing similar views, Niti Aayog member Dr V K Paul pointed out that vaccination is not a full guarantee and one should not take Covid for granted. "No vaccine provides 100% guarantee against reinfection. All however reduce the risk of hospitalisation drastically," he said.

In this connection he cited resurgence of Covid cases worldwide, pointing out that "it is a matter of concern and the pandemic is not over yet."

"If we look from a global perspective, the pandemic is far from over. There's a noticeable increase in the number of cases across the world, which remains the area of concern. We've to work on containing the spread of the virus with strictness," the official said.

At 29,689, India has reported less than 30,000 new Covid-19 cases after 132 days, according to the government.

The number of active cases in the country also fell below 4,00,000 after 124 days, it said. Fresh cases pushed India's overall Covid-19 tally to 3,14,40,951, while the death toll climbed to 4,21,382 with 415 daily fatalities, the health ministry said.

The active cases have declined to 3,98,100 and now comprise 1.27 per cent of the total infections.

SC seeks Centre, Delhi Govt's view on inoculation, rehabilitation of beggars

New Delhi: Making it clear it will not take an "elitist view" that no beggars be allowed on the streets, the Supreme Court Tuesday asked the Centre and Delhi Government to respond to a plea seeking vaccination and rehabilitation of beggars and vagabonds in view of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The apex court said begging is a "socio-political problem" and people are compelled to beg on the streets to eke out some elementary livelihood in the absence of education and employment.

A bench of Justices D Y Chandrachud and M R Shah told the counsel appearing for the petitioner that it would not consider one part of the prayer which sought direction to the authorities to restrain beggars, vagabonds and homeless persons from begging at public places or traffic junctions.

The bench said it would issue notices to the Centre and the Delhi Government seeking their responses on the prayer made in the petition for rehabilitation, vaccination and providing food and shelters to beggars and vagabonds amid the pandemic.

"As the Supreme Court, we would not want to take an elitist view that no beggars should be there on the streets," the bench said. PTI

Don't make delay in identifying Covid-orphaned kids: SC to States, UTs

New Delhi: Observing that identification of children who have become orphans or lost a parent either due to Covid-19 or otherwise does not brook any further delay, the Supreme Court Tuesday directed the State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) to file status reports giving particulars about the number of children who have become orphans after March 2020.

The top court said there is a need to ensure the schemes meant for orphans reach the real beneficiaries and not just remain on paper.

A Bench comprising Justices L Nageswara Rao and Aniruddha Bose directed the the District Magistartes to issue necessary instructions to the district child protection officers to take assistance of the police, civil society, gram panchayats, anganwadi and ASHA workers for identification of orphans.

The apex court said this is in addition to mechanisms available in Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and rules.

"The identification of children who have lost both parents or one parent after March 2020 does not brook any further delay," the bench said.

The Bench also clarified that its order covers all children who became orphans during this period due to Covid or otherwise.

"What we are thinking is to take care of all children who have been orphaned whether Covid or not Covid. We cannot restrict the orders passed to only orphans who lost both parents to COVID-19", Justice Rao said.

The Bench said District Magistrates are directed to continue uploading the information on Bal Swaraj portal of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR).

Child welfare committees are directed to complete the inquiry within the time limit specified under Act and provide assistance and rehabilitation to orphans, the bench added.

"All State Governments, UTs are directed to file status reports giving particulars giving the number of children who have become orphan after March 2020. The number of children produced before the child welfare committee and their particular who have been provided with benefits of the schemes by the state governments," the bench said.

It also directed the states to provide details regarding payment of ₹2,000 monetary assistance given to needy orphans under the Integrated Child Development Services scheme. PTI

Reports about India missing 50 cr end-July jab target ill-informed: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday termed as "ill-informed and misrepresenting" media reports that claimed that India will miss the end-July target of administering 50 crore Covid vaccine doses and asserted that over 51.60 crore vaccine doses will be supplied from January to July 31.

"These reports are ill-informed and have clearly misrepresented the facts," the Union Health Ministry said in a statement here.

The figures of 516 million vaccine doses might have been picked up from various sources which informed about the likely availability of the vaccine doses from January to July-end, it added.

"The facts are that a total of more than 516 million vaccine doses will indeed be supplied from January 2021 to 31st July, 2021," the ministry said.

It added that the vaccine doses are supplied to the states in accordance with the advance allocation plan and they are informed about it in advance. The vaccines are supplied to the states in various schedules throughout the month.

"Therefore, availability of 516 million doses till end of a particular month does not mean that every dose supplied till that month is going to be consumed/administered.

"There would be supplies in the pipeline, which should be available for the next few days till the next supplies of vaccine doses materialize in a particular state/district/sub-district to keep vaccination going on," the statement said.

Govt cites study, says Covishield gives 93% protection against virus

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday cited a study by the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) during the second Covid-19 wave to say that Covishield gives 93 per cent protection against Covid-19 and a 98 per cent mortality reduction.

Addressing a press conference, NITI Aayog Member (Health) Dr V K Paul presented findings of the study which was conducted on 15 lakh doctors and frontline workers.

"Protection to the extent of 93 per cent was seen (in people who were administered the Covishield vaccine) and this was during the second wave which was driven by the Delta variant... also 98 per cent mortality reduction was seen," he said.

Reiterating the usefulness of vaccines in battling Covid-19, Paul said inoculation reduces infection but it is not a total guarantee.

Lok Sabha sees 10 adjournments over phone-tapping row

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Tuesday witnessed 10 adjournments amid continuous protests by Opposition members over the Pegasus snooping row and farm laws. After being adjourned nine times, the Lower House reassembled at 4.30 PM and Rajendra Agrawal, who was in the Chair, took up one matter of urgent public importance.

However, the Opposition members again trooped into the Well shouting slogans and carrying banners.

Meanwhile Congress MPs from Punjab Ravneet Singh Bittu and Gurjit Singh Aujala sat on a dharna inside the Lok Sabha chamber after the proceedings of the House were adjourned for the day. The dharna was still going on when the last report came in. This protest indicates the Opposition is expected to up their ante in coming days on Pegasus snooping row and farm laws.

The members of Congress, CPI, CPI(M) and TMC were protesting over the Pegasus snooping row, while the BSP, SP and Shiromani Akali Dal were raising slogans against the Centre's three new farm laws. Earlier, Speaker Om Birla led the members in paying tributes to Anerood Jugnauth, former president of Mauritius, and Kenneth David Buchizya Kaunda, the first president of Zambia. The opposition's protests started soon after the proceedings began at 11 AM.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Arjun Ram Meghwal said by disrupting the proceedings, the Opposition is not allowing the ministers to do their duty of replying to questions.

7 Opposition parties seek Kovind's intervention on farm laws, Pegasus

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seven Opposition parties have written to President Ram Nath Kovind seeking his intervention to direct the Government to discuss farmers' issues and Pegasus phone-tapping in Parliament.

The decision to knock the doors of Rashtrapati Bhavan took place after a meeting of the Opposition leaders held in the Parliament premises after the adjournment of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.

Though the Congress was also present in the meeting, the signatories of the letter are BSP, RLP, SAD, National Conference, CPI, CPI(M) and NCP. Later, the Opposition leaders joined senior Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge for a joint Press conference outside the Parliament.

Congress sources said that the grand old party did not became a signatory to the letter due to the presence of SAD however the both political parties will continue to fight for the right of farmers in the Parliament till justice met.

NCP leader Supriya Sule said the seven parties have written to the President seeking his intervention to instruct the government to discuss the farmers" issues and Pegasus snooping in the Parliament.

SAD leader Harsimrat Badal, who was a Minister in Modi government until she resigned to protest the controversial farm laws, said it is very unfortunate that farmers have died while protesting against the three farm laws but the Centre is not even ready to discuss their issues.

Addressing the Press conference, Kharge said, government is not interested in a meaningful discussion and debate.

"This Government does not believe in its accountability to the people of India through the Parliament. This Government has functioned in a manner, which has lowered the prestige of Indian Parliament and Indian democracy. What the opposition has demanded is fair, correct, within the ambit of rules and established Parliament practice and conventions. When collectively, the opposition gives a notice that matter has to be discussed, Parliament is not convened only for the legislative agenda of the Government," Kharge said.

"We have no option, but to continue to agitate and we have come here all of us together, because what we say inside the house, does not reach the people, it is never telecast. Opposition is being blacked out inside the house, so through the media, we want to tell our people, we shall continue this fight. The government obdurate as it is, we will force them, as in a democratic set up it is done to come and debate, if the government has nothing to hide, let them start the debate today itself, the opposition is ready," said Anand Sharma, Deputy Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha.

DMK' Tiruchi Shiva, SP leader Ram Gopal Yadav, CPI leader Binoy Vishwam, TMC leader Sukhendu Shekhar Roy, RJD's Manoj Jha and AAP leader Sanjay Singh attended the meet.

Pegasus row continues to halt RS proceedings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Pegasus issue continued to rock the Rajya Sabha for the sixth consecutive day on Tuesday. Sloganeering and displaying of banners by the agitated Opposition and some of them trooping into the well of the house were the order of the day. It witnessed repeated adjournments due to disruption.

Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu tried to restore order when the proceedings commenced at 11.00 am. However, the Opposition was in no mood to relent and shouted slogans. Naidu said it was "a sorry state of affairs" before adjourning the house till 12.00 pm.

Similar scenes were seen when the house reassembled and despite Deputy Chairman Harivansh's appeal, the din continued.

He cautioned that some of the members in the well were not wearing masks and not following the Covid protocol.

Deputy leader of the house Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi also objected to the members not wearing masks and said they are posing a health risk to the Rajya Sabha secretariat officials.

He also objected to alleged derogatory slogans raised against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Govt seeks time till Jan 9 for framing CAA rules

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Home Ministry has sought an extension for the fifth time till January 9 for framing the rules of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which was passed by Parliament in 2019. The Ministry also said that due to outbreak of Covid-19 and flood situation, finalisation of National Register of Citizens (NRC) in Assam is delayed andthe process of issuing rejection slips has been postponed.

Replying to the question from Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi, the MoS Home Affairs Nityanand Rai informed Lok Sabha on Tuesday that "the Committees on Subordinate Legislation, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha have been requested to grant further extension of time upto 09.01.2022 to frame the rules under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019,"

This is the fifth extension sought by the government for framing of these rules. According to the Manual on Parliamentary Work, the rules for any legislation should have been framed within six months of Presidential assent or seek extension.

The MHA, to a query from Abdul Khaleque (Congress) on the NRC, said nine Gazette notifications, the last being on July 31, 2019, had been published by the Office of the Registrar General and the Census Commissioner. "Several communications and instructions have been sent to the State Coordinator of National Register of Citizens (NRC), Assam, for complying [with] the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to disposal of claims and objections, publication of lists of inclusions and exclusions in NRC, etc.," said the Ministry.

India-Russia military drill to start on Aug 1

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Underlining the time-tested long-standing defence between the two countries, India and Russia will take part in the 12th edition of the Indo-Russia Joint Military Exercise (INDRA) at Volgograd city. The 13-day exercise will start on August 1, 2021.

The exercise will entail conduct of counter terror operations under the United Nations mandate by a joint force against international terror groups.

Giving details of the upcoming event, officials said here on Tuesday, 250 personnel from both the nations will form part of the exercise. The Indian Army contingent comprising of a Mechanised Infantry Battalion underwent rigorous training at different locations in India to refine their drills for participation in the joint exercise.

Exercise INDRA-21 will further strengthen mutual confidence and interoperability between the Indian and Russian Armies and enable sharing of best practices between the contingents of both the countries.

The exercise will be yet another milestone in strengthening security cooperation and will serve to reinforce the long-standing bond of friendship between India and Russia.

Dholavira joins UNESCO World Heritage list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The UNESCO on Tuesday said Dholavira, a Harappan-era metropolis, in Gujarat, has been inscribed on its World Heritage List, prompting Prime Minister Narendra Modi to tweet that he was "absolutely delighted by this news".

"Dholavira: A Harappan City, in India, just inscribed on the @UNESCO #WorldHeritage List. Congratulations!" UNESCO tweeted. The ongoing 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of the

UNESCO has already given India a new world heritage site in the form of the Rudreswara/ Ramappa Temple in Telangana, which dates back to the 13th century.

"Absolutely delighted by this news. Dholavira was an important urban centre and is one of our most important linkages with our past. It is a must visit, especially for those interested in history, culture and archaeology," Modi tweeted.

"As CM of Gujarat, I had the opportunity to work on aspects relating to heritage conservation and restoration in Dholavira. Our team also worked to create tourism-friendly infrastructure there," he further said.

Gujarat so far has three world heritage sites — Champaner near Pavagadh, Rani ki Vav in Patan and the historic city of Ahmedabad.

This session of the World Heritage Committee is being chaired from Fuzhou in China and is being held online. It started on July 16 and will end on July 31.

The 44th session combines current work, and issues left outstanding since last year, when the annual meeting was postponed due to COVID-19.

"It gives immense pride to share with my fellow Indians that #Dholavira is now the 40th treasure in India to be given @UNESCO's World Heritage Inscription. Another feather in India's cap as we now enter the Super-40 club for World Heritage Site inscriptions," Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy said in a tweet.

"Today is a proud day for India, especially for the people of Gujarat," he said. "Since 2014, India has added 10 new World Heritage sites – one fourth of our total sites. This shows PM @arendramodi's steadfast commitment in promoting Indian culture, heritage and the Indian way of life," Reddy tweeted.

Hydro-meteorological disasters damaged 2L hectares of cropped area, says Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday informed Parliament that a little over 2 lakh hectare of the cropped area has been damaged so far this year due to hydro-meteorological calamities. The government also informed that it is aiming to create a federated National Farmers Database using digitised land records that will help to offer proactive and personalised services to farmers.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Tuesday informed that 66.55 lakh hectare cropped area was damaged in 2020-21. However, till July 27 this year, 2.024 lakh hectare area has been damaged due to hydro-meteorological calamities/ hazards, he said.

The maximum damage was reported from Gujarat, followed by Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha, and Goa in the said period. The minister said states undertake relief measures in the wake of natural disasters from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) already placed at their disposal.

"As a first step in this direction, the government has already initiated building federated farmers' database that would serve as the core of the envisaged Agristack," Tomar said in another written reply to the Lok Sabha.

No private sector companies are involved as far as the building of the Agristack is concerned. However, leading Technology/Agri-tech/startup companies were identified and invited to collaborate with the central government to develop proof of concepts (PoCs) based on small portions of data from the federated Farmers' database for certain identified areas (district/village), he added.

In a reply to another question, Tomar said that the Centre had approved nearly Rs 700 crore towards relief of farmers in flood-hit Maharashtra, even as Opposition members continued disrupting the lower chamber for the fifth straight day.

UP ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

SP-NCP to join hands

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

In a move aimed at defeating the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, Sharad Pawar led Nationalist Congress Party and Samajwadi Party have decided to join hands and contest the coming Assembly elections in Uttar Pradesh.

Well placed sources in Samajwadi Party said that Sharad Pawar and Akhilesh Yadav had a long consultation over the issue in Delhi after which the two leaders decided to forge an alliance but the seat sharing was yet to be worked out.

The sources said Pawar was also said to be in talks with other "like-minded" parties in a bid to put up a united front against the BJP in Uttar Pradesh.

While addressing party workers in Lucknow last week, Akhilesh Yadav had said that the BJP was an "anti-people" party which was running the government with "hatred" and that the assembly polls next year would be the "last opportunity" to save democracy.

"To achieve the target of securing 350 seats in UP, we will have to work day and night," Akhilesh had said and exhorted party workers to beware of BJP's tricks and propaganda.

Modi, Mins to visit UP every month

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

To showcase the claim of how double engine Governments in Delhi and Lucknow had changed the face of Uttar Pradesh, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and several Union Ministers will now frequently visit the poll-bound UP every month to either inaugurate or lay the foundation stone of various development schemes, until the model code of conduct comes into force.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit the state capital to lay the foundation stone of Uttar Pradesh State Institute for Forensic Sciences which will come up in 50-acre land in Piparsand village of Sarojini Nagar tehsil in Lucknow on August 1.

The institute will also have a seat of centre of excellence and pave the way for research in DNA testing in the state.

"Like the model followed in Bihar and West Bengal elections, the Prime Minister, his ministerial colleagues and senior BJP functionaries will be visiting UP regularly ahead of the imposition of the model code of conduct to inaugurate or lay the foundation stone of development projects in the state," a senior BJP leader told this reporter on Tuesday.

The Prime Minister will be in Siddharthnagar to inaugurate nine new medical colleges, his second trip to the state this month after visiting Varanasi on July 15 for unveiling projects. The dates will be announced later. It will be highlighted that these medical colleges have been built under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana and with the resources of the UP Government.

Battle of one-upmanship among two Nishad parties worries SP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

The battle of one-upmanship among two Nishad parties staking claim over the legacy of 'Bandit Queen' and former MP Phoolan Devi has worried the Samajwadi Party. The Nishad Party of UP and Vikassheel Insaan Party (VIP) of Bihar, both allies of the Bharatiya Janata Party, are vying with each other to establish themselves as the sole representative of the Nishad community in UP and claiming themselves as the sole representative of Phoolan Devi.

"It was the Samajwadi Party that took cudgels on behalf of the community in 1994 and not only ensured the release of Phoolan Devi but got her elected to Lok Sabha twice. Now new claimants have emerged to stake claim on her legacy. Both Nishad community- based parties would be exposed during the 2022 UP Assembly elections as people know who their real benefactor is," said a Samajwadi Party leader in Lucknow on Tuesday.

Nishad leader and Bihar Minister Mukesh Sahani has said that his outfit, VIP, will contest 165 Assembly seats in the 2022 UP elections.

Eyeing the votes of Nishad (Mallah) community that constitute seven per cent of UP's electorate, Sahani has decided to install Phoolan Devi's statues in 18 UP districts including Prayagraj, Firozabad, Ballia, Sant Kabir Nagar, Banda, Ayodhya, Sultanpur, Gorakhpur, Maharajganj, Auraiya, Lucknow, Unnao, Meerut, Mirzapur, Sant Ravidas Nagar, Muzaffarnagar, Varanasi and Jaunpur.

BSP announces names of two candidates

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Taking a lead over other political parties, the Bahujan Samaj Party, on Tuesday, announced the names of two of its candidates for the coming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections.

Ramesh Singh Yadav will be the BSP candidate from Bithoor assembly constituency in Kanpur and Kalmesh Ambedkar from Bharthana (reserved) assembly seat Etawah in the 2022 election.

The name of Kalmesh Ambedkar was announced by BSP's Etawah district president Shilu Dohra on Tuesday.

Kamlesh Ambedkar is the wife of Bhimrao Ambedkar, chief sector incharge of the BSP for Kanpur division.

In 2007, Kamlesh's husband Bhimrao Ambedkar was elected as BSP MLA from Lakhna reserved seat, which has now been included in the Bharthana reserved seat, but he could not taste victory in the subsequent assembly elections.

The Bharthana reserved assembly constituency is presently held by Bharatiya Janata Party, from where Savitri Katheria is the ruling party's MLA. Shilu Dohra claimed that the BJP would contest the 2022 assembly elections with full force. He said preparations were being made to field a candidate of Yadav or Shakya caste from Shivpal Singh Yadav's Jaswantnagar constituency.

Naresh Goyal, Ajay Singh, Prashant Ruia, PSU chiefs in Pegasus list

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Pegasus snooping list seems unending. The latest list to come out figures many industrialists and their lobbyists. It includes the now defunct Jet Airways owner Naresh Goyal, Spice Jet promoter Ajay Singh, considered close to the top BJP leadership, Essar Group's Prashant Ruia, Aircel promoter Sivasankaran, and Rotomac Pens' Vikram Kothari and son Rahul Kothari, facing bank cases.

Mukesh Ambani and Anil Ambani Group's V. Balasubramaniam and A.N. Sethuraman and Adani Group's lobbyists' names also figured in the list. As per the report published by The Wire portal, the top executives of PSUs like GAIL, LIC, Narmada Valley Fertilizer Corporation also figured in the Pegasus target list.

"Apart from Goyal, the most prominent names on the list are numbers used by SpiceJet chairman and managing director Ajay Singh and the Essar Group's Prashant Ruia. The list also contains multiple businessmen or officials of companies who have had run-ins with the law over the last few years, mostly due to investigations of loan fraud. This includes Vikram Kothari of Rotomac Pens (and his son Rahul), and C. Sivasankaran, former Aircel promoter and maverick entrepreneur," said the Wire report.

Former GAIL Chairman BC Tripathi, who later joined Essar Group, two numbers, "one for a former boss of Life Insurance Corporation of India and the other for a former executive director of the Gujarat Narmada Valley Fertiliser Corporation also appears on the list," said the report.

Though the report named both Reliance Group lobbyists Balasubramanian and Sethuraman, it did not name the lobbyists of Adani Group who were targeted. Dravidian splinter group leaders were also caught on the Pegasus radar. "Naam Thamizhar Katchi's Seeman, May 17 movement's Thirumurugan Gandhi, Thanthai Periyar Dravidar Kazhagam's K. Ramakrishnan and Dravidar Kazhagam treasurer Kumaresan feature in the list of potential targets of an NSO Group client.

Senior journalists move SC seeking independent probe

New Delhi: Veteran editors N Ram and Sashi Kumar on Tuesday moved the Supreme Court seeking an independent probe by its sitting or retired judge into the reports of alleged snooping by Government agencies on eminent citizens, politicians and scribes by using Israeli spyware Pegasus. "The targeted surveillance using military-grade spyware is an unacceptable violation of the right to privacy which has been held to be a fundamental right under Articles 14 (equality before the law), 19 (freedom of speech and expression) and 21 (protection of life and personal liberty) by the Supreme Court, said the petitioners.

Assam-Mizoram border sealed; MHA calls meeting of DGPs, officials

New Delhi: Union Home MInistry has called a meeting of the Chief Secretaries and DGPs of Assam and Mizoram on Wednesday in the wake of violence along their shared border, where five Assam Police personnel were killed.

Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla will chair the meeting to discuss the sudden escalation of violence along the Assam-Mizoram border. The meeting of the Chief Secretaries and DGPs is expected to work on a peace formula so that there is no repeat of the violence along the border of the two states, a home ministry official said.

The central government is in regular touch with the Assam and Mizoram governments and trying to calm down the situation, the officials said, adding CRPF has been deployed in the violence-hit area. Five Assam Police personnel, along with a civilian, were killed and more than 50 others, including a Superintendent of Police, were injured when Mizoram Police opened fire on a team of Assam officials on Monday.

Assam's Barak Valley districts of Cachar, Karimganj and Hailakandi share a 164 km long border with Mizoram's three districts of Aizawl, Kolasib and Mamit. The incidents came two days after Home Minister Amit Shah held talks with the chief ministers of eight northeastern states and underscored the need to resolve lingering border disputes. *PNS*

22,129 new Covid-19 cases in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Kerala on Tuesday logged 22,129 new Covid-19 cases across the State while the pandemic claimed 156 lives during the last 24 hours. This took the death toll in the State till date to 16, 326. The average Test Positivity Rate on Tuesday was 12.35 percent.

The Legislative Assembly witnessed charges and counter charges between the Opposition UDF and the ruling LDF over the death toll released by the Government. Leader of the Opposition V D Satheeshan claimed that the Government has not included more than 7,000 persons who died of Covid-19 in its list while Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan retorted that the Government does not have anything to hide. "If you have any genuine grievances and evidences, furnish it to us and we will certainly examine the same," said the Chief Minister while replying to an adjournment motion moved by the Opposition.

Tuesday's announcement regarding the Covid-19 details came amidst the concern expressed by the Union Government that Kerala's ten districts had the highest TPR in the country.

Malappuram topped the list of districts with highest number of new Covid-19 cases on Tuesday. While Malappuram registered 4,037 new patients, Thrissur came second with 2,623 patients. Kozhikode (2,397), Ernakulam (2352) and Palakkadu (2115) were the other districts with more than 2,000 patients.

On Tuesday, 1,79 lakhs samples were tested, according to the release issued by the Department of Health. "The number of new Covid-19 cases are likely to go up further in days to come as we are waiting for the impact of the lifting of lock down in connection with the Id festival," said a Government Physician who has been on Covid-19 treatment duty for the last one year.

He said there were discrepancies in the details submitted by the Department of Health , Kerala Government. "A comparative study between the details released by Tamil Nadu and Kerala reveal that the former is more transparent.

Rajnath begins 3-day visit to Dushanbe to attend SCO meet

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Situation in Afghanistan and its impact on the whole region and terrorism and ways to curb its funding will figure prominently during Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's three-day participation in the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation(SCO) conclave starting Wednesday in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The annual conference of the Defence Ministers of the SCO countries will also see the Chinese and Pakistan Ministers taking part. While Rajnath had met his Chinese counterpart Wei Fenghe in the SCO conclave last year in a bilateral meeting in Moscow, it was not yet confirmed about such a meeting this year.

Rajnath and Fenghe had discussed ways to ease tension at the Line of Actual Control(LAC)in nearly two-hour long parleys on the sidelines of the SCO conclave in September last. Incidentally, it was the first high level meeting between leaders of India and China after stand-offs erupted on the LAC in eastern Ladakh ion May last year.

Giving details of Rajnath's schedule in Dushanbe, the Defence Ministry said here on Tuesday, the Minister will address the SCO gathering on Wednesday.

Defence cooperation issues among the SCO member states will be discussed and a communique is expected to be issued after the deliberations.

During his visit, Rajnath is also expected to meet his Tajikistan counterpart Colonel General Sherali Mirzo to discuss bilateral issues and other issues of mutual interest.

Tajikistan is chairing the SCO this year and hosting series of Ministerial and official-level meetings. A few days back it hosted the foreign Ministers' meet.

Addressing the SCO dialogue on Afghanistan there on July 14, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar had proposed a three-point way forward to restore peace in the strife torn country. He also stressed that the solution has to be Afghan led.

Jaishankar also cautioned that the international community is against the "seizure of power by violence and force" and will not "legitimise such actions". This was in an apparent reference to the Taliban surging in many districts in Afghanistan.

As regards Rajnath's address on Wednesday, sources said he is expected to delve into regional security challenges, including terrorism, and the ways to deal with them.

IN SHORT

PVT SECTOR HELP NEEDED FOR MONUMENTS' CARE

New Delhi: The department-related parliamentary standing committee, 'Development and Conservation of Museums and Archaeological Sites – Challenges and Opportunities', chaired by BJP leader T G Venkatesh, has recommended that the Culture Ministry seek the participation of the private sector for the investment needed to maintain international standards in the development of museums and conservation of monuments.

DIRECTIONS FOR UNIFORM HEALTHCARE STANDARDS

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday sought the Centre's response on a plea seeking directions for a uniform standard of healthcare for citizens in line with the Constitution by adopting the provisions of the Clinical Establishments Act, 2010.

'FALL IN MAOIST-LINKED VIOLENCE IN 3 YRS'

New Delhi: There has been a decrease in Maoist-linked violence activities in the country over the last three years, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai informed Parliament on Tuesday. While there were 833 incidents of Left Wing Extremism (LWE) violence in 2018, they came down to 670 in 2019 and further decreased to 665 last year. The corresponding official deaths in these incidents too came down from 240 (2018) to 202 (2019) and 183 in the last year.

SC ASKS HC TO DECIDE APPEALS OF CONVICT

New Delhi: Terming it a "hard case of unduly long incarceration", the Supreme Court has asked the Allahabad High Court to make an endeavour to dispose within four months the appeals filed by two life convicts, including one from Bangladesh, who have in custody for over 30 and 15 years.

PVT HOSP PROCURES OVER 1.27 CR JABS DIRECTLY

New Delhi: Under the "Liberalised Pricing and Accelerated National Covid-19 Vaccination Strategy", over 1.27 crore doses of Covid-19 vaccines were directly procured by private hospitals in May, the Government informed Parliament on Tuesday. The strategy came into effect from May 1.

Centre seeks data on deaths due to oxygen shortage

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Days after denying any death due to oxygen shortage during the second wave of Covid-19, the Government has written to States/Union Territories seeking such data, according to Government sources.

This data is likely to be presented in the ongoing Monsoon Session of the Parliament, they added.

"The Centre has written to States for data on deaths related to Oxygen shortage. The data is likely to be presented in Parliament before the Monsoon Session ends on August 13," sources told a news agency.

The Government has been drawing flak over the claim that no deaths due to lack of oxygen had been specifically reported by states and Union Territories during the second Covid-19 wave.

The Centre, while responding to a question by Congress MP KC Venugopal, had on July 20 told the Rajya Sabha that no deaths due to lack of oxygen had been specifically reported by States and Union Territories during the second Covid wave.

In the written reply, Minister of State for Health Dr Bharati Pravin Pawar stated that health is a State subject and accordingly all States, UTs report cases and deaths to the Union Health Ministry on a regular basis.

Hospitals across the country reported severe oxygen shortages for several days and private hospitals in the national capital approached the High Court demanding a steady supply. Several hospital administrations in different states have alleged that the shortage of oxygen resulted in the death of several patients.

ATS arrests three for running human trafficking racket

Lucknow: Sleuths of the Anti Terrorists Squad (ATS) claimed to have busted a gang involved in human trafficking racket involving Bangladeshis and Rohingyas in the country. They arrested three members of the gang on Tuesday and claimed that the group was involved in human trafficking, especially of women and children, to settle them in cities like Ghaziabad, Noida and Delhi through forged documents.

According to an official communiqué, the ATS sleuths were getting information for some time that an international gang was illegally bringing citizens of Bangladesh and Myanmar, especially women and children, to India to settle them in cities like Noida, Ghaziabad and Delhi.

During investigation, it was found that the leader of this international human trafficking gang was Muhammad Noor alias Noorul Islam, who was illegally luring Rohingya and Bangladeshi women into marriage, and men and children to work in factories, the release stated. After bringing them to India, they were settled on the basis of coded forms.

According to the information given by the police, these human traffickers exploited the victims, including women and children financially, physically and mentally. It also came to light that the human traffickers were earning a huge amount of money from this work. The ATS investigation revealed that Noor Muhammad was going to Delhi by train (Brahmaputra Mail) along with some Rohingya and Bangladeshi nationals when the probing team deboarded five persons, including two girls and interrogated them in Ghaziabad. Besides Islam, the other two arrested were identified as Rahmatullah and Safiurrehman alias Safiullah, all hailing from Myanmar. *PNS*

11 UP districts Covid-free

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh reported 36 new coronavirus positive cases on Tuesday while 73 patients recovered during the same period while 11 districts were declared Covid- free, said Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal here on Tuesday.

Aligarh, Budaun, Basti, Bahraich, Etah, Fatehpur, Hamirpur, Hathras, Kasganj, Mahoba and Shravasti districts have been declared Covid-free. Sehgal said not a case of infection was found in 54 districts, while patients were found in single digits in 21 districts. He said the positivity rate now stood at 0.01 per cent.

He said at present, the number of active cases in the State had come down to 798 out of which 508 were in home isolation.

The Covid-19 recovery rate in the state is 98.6 per cent. So far, more than 16.84 lakh people have recovered, he added.

In the last 24 hours, 2,25,009 Covid tests were conducted. More than 8.20 lakh people were administered vaccines on Monday. So far, more than 4,52,39,000 Covid vaccines have been administered in UP.

Maha rain-flood toll reaches 209

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The rain-flood toll in Maharashtra climbed further to 209 on Tuesday, even as 43 roads in various rain-flood ravaged areas of Maharashtra remained submerged in water and the number of people evacuated went up to 4,34,185.

Seventeen more bodies were recovered during the day, taking the total number of people killed in the rain-related mishaps to 209.

Raigad accounted for a maximum of 95 deaths, while there were 45 deaths in Satara district of western Maharashtra. The death tally in other places comprised: Ratnagiri-35, Thane-14, Kolhapur-7, Mumbai-4, Pune-3, Sindhdurg, Wardha and Akola-2 each. The authorities pegged the number of injuries at 50, while eight persons were still reported missing.

Though there was let up in the rains, as many as 19 -- 16 teams belonging to the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and three belonging to the Indian Army – continued with their rescue and operations in various parts of the coastal Konkan region and western Maharashtra.

Till Tuesday evening, the rescue and

relief teams shifted as many 4,34,185 people in the flooded areas of the state to safer places.

As many as 1351 villages were affected by the rains and consequent floods. Satara bore the maximum brunt of the heavy rains, as many as 420 villages were affected. While 411 villages in Kolhapur district were affected, the authorities pegged the number of villages affected in Sangli district at 104.

Meanwhile, as many as 308 relief camps are functioning in various affected areas. Kolhapur accounted for maximum of 296 relief camps involving 40,688 evacuated people, followed by Sangli -- 43 camps (2,06,611 people), Satara --29 camps (2902 people), Ratnagiri -- 16 camps (695 people).

UP ex-CM Kalyan Singh critical: Yogi visits hospital

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh's former Chief Minister Kalyan Singh is in life support as his condition is critical, according to a medical bulletin by the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences here on Tuesday.

The 89-year-old BJP veteran was admitted to the ICU of the hospital on the evening of July 4 due to an infection and reduced consciousness.

"Kalyan Singh's health status is still critical. He is on life saving support system. He has been on continuous dialysis. His clinical parameters are being closely monitored by the expert consultants," the bulletin said.

His condition is being closely monitored by senior doctors of the critical care medicine, cardiology, nephrology, neurology and endocrinology departments, a doctor said.

Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Yogi Adityanath visited the veteran leader on Tuesday and enquired about his health status. Earlier, Singh was undergoing treatment at the Ram Manohar Lohia Institute of Medical Sciences here. *PTI*

A worker cleans a huge idol of Lord Shiva during *Shravan* month, in Kolkata on Tuesday PTI

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PAPER WITH PASSION

Upheaval

India should wait and watch and resist global pressure to move into Afghanistan

It will mean a massive turnaround in India's Afghanistan policy to send its soldiers into the war-torn neighbouring country. No current indication warrants such an approach even though friendly external powers want India to play an active, hard role in Afghanistan. The situation is similar to the one where the Quad members (the United States, Australia, India and Japan) would like India being their active spearhead in containing China. In the western theatre, China has planned joint action with Pakistan to fend off the threat of terrorism in Afghanistan even though the Afghan media has created a perception that Pakistan is aiding the Taliban. Still, China's articulation may convince the West to prefer pulling India into the neighbourhood war. India, thus, already has its hands full trying to ensure that it is not forced into taking sides. India has clarified it is not "aware" of any "invitation" to be part of the American initiative through Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Pakistan or the Russia-US-China grouping on Afghanistan. The relationship between Kabul and New Delhi is shaped by the strategic partnership between the two countries signed in October 2011. It is the basis for their strategic efforts "against international terrorism". India's role is limited to training and equipping Afghan national security forces and executing capacity-building programmes. To go beyond this point will mean freshly assessing its Afghanistan policy that so far translated into India keeping itself out of the conflict but contributing to capacity building with an external power — the Iran-Russia front initially and, later, the United States — maintaining stability. This policy allowed India to keep away from the Taliban.

In the present scenario, however, the Taliban are forcing themselves to be at the centre-stage in Afghanistan, making it impossible to arrive at a resolution without involving them. The situation persuades all parties to decide what kind of contact to have with the Taliban. The other complication is, which of the factions of the Taliban to contact? There is the faction that depends on Pakistan's support while another faction attempts to carve its political space with help from sections in the Middle East. Thirdly, what exactly would a country like India talk to the Taliban about when Pakistan-based terror outfits that are intent on destabilising India are said to be assisting the Taliban in Afghanistan? India will get a fair idea of where the United States, which is in the last stages of withdrawal from Afghanistan, stands on the question of stability in the region when its leadership meets visiting Secretary of State Anthony Blinken. India missed a first-hand briefing on the ground situation in Afghanistan because of the cancellation of the visit of the Afghan Army chief. The situation is not such that India can come to an informed decision about its future action. The external powers are still in the process of firming up their own positions and roles. Till then, India's job is to wait and watch and resist international pressure to move in.

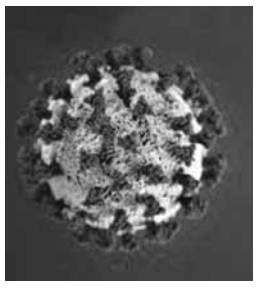
PICTALK

A pet monkey enjoys tea from a plastic cup collected from a roadside garbage box, in Kolkata PTI

Zapping the virus

In what may be a breakthrough against Corona's spread, a laser device will kill the virus in 50 msecs

Even as the Novel Coronavirus fast mutates into new, deadlier variants since being discovered nearly one-and-a-half years ago, virologists and scientists are scurrying to keep pace and finding more potent ways to eliminate it. According to latest reports, a new laser device has been created in Italy that is apparently capable of obliterating the pernicious virus present within a structure's boundary walls. Work on the machine project, developed by the scientists of the United Nations in collaboration with the scientists of an Italian tech company, the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, and Altec K-Laser, a local company that makes laser equipment, respectively, was started last year when Italy was reeling under the COVID-19 pandemic. How does the instrument work? It's quite simple, really. In the device, the air is passed through a laser beam that kills viruses and bacteria. And it is already getting noticed and winning accolades, too. "This device has completely changed the way I think about laser technology. It kills viruses in 50 milliseconds," claims Serena Zakinya, the head of the Cardiovascular Biology Group at the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology.



As a significant precautionary measure, keeping the areas within the boundary walls free from infection has proved to be a major challenge during the pandemic. A virus-free environment within the boundary walls has become a necessity to prevent the spread of the virus. However, there are Doubting Thomases, too. Some scientists say that the laser-based technology will not be safe to kill the virus. A study published in the *Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology* in November linked laser-based devices to the risk of cancer. But the equipment's manufacturers have assured that there is no truth in these reports. They believe that the laser emanating from it never comes in contact with the human skin, so there is no risk of developing cancer. Claiming that it is a recycled product, the Altec founder has said that "our device uses nature against nature". But the one drawback is that though viruses and bacteria can be eliminated in the air, the laser won't be effective if they fall to the floor or any surface. The company, having already bagged a patent for this device which can also be installed in the air-conditioning unit, now plans to take it to the international market.

When politicos pass the buck to military

ASHOK K **MEHTA**

After decades-long wait, Modi 2.0 appointed Gen Rawat as the CDS in 2019 but the Defence Planning Committee fell short of groundwork

Before the monsoon session of Parliament, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh invited two former Defence Ministers for a briefing. He did not dirty his hands but asked the CDS and COAS to brief them. In the UK, it would not happen. Politicians pass the buck to the military. Expectedly, the Army and Air Force have clashed over the transformational reforms underway. CDS Gen Rawat described the IAF as an extension of artillery and a combat support service. Air Chiefs have been kept out of the loop during the 1965 and 1971 wars, reflecting mistrust of IAF which is about air power required for "shaping the battlefield". But boots on the ground are essential.

Rewind: Gulf War I (1991) lasted 44 days: 38 days of aerial bombardment and four-day land offensive. In Bosnia (1995), air power alone won the war in 17 days. Kosovo (1999), air war was 78 days with no ground offensive. The Afghanistan campaign (2001) lasted 65 days with 11 days of ground operations. The Iraq war (2003) lasted 21 days of air and land battle. In Sri Lanka, the IAF performed its modest role effectively. The IAF's sterling performance though was the Balakot bombing — politically and strategically a turning point, marking the threshold of counter-terrorism response. The omission in employing IAF in 1962 was part of the political and military fiasco. Still, IAF insecurities arising from jointness, including rotation of three-star slots by merit, have to be addressed to achieve unification to obviate IAF Chief having to ask the Army Chief to requisition in writing that air support was required during Kargil.

The CDS traces its history to Admiral Mountbatten when he sounded Prime Minister Nehru about its utility. After the 1971 war, Prime Minister Gandhi had informed Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw he would become CDS but nothing came of it. The CDS was resurrected by a 2001 GoM containing 100 recommendations, most of which were implemented except CDS. When an attempt was made to appoint CDS, Air Chief Marshal OP Mehra accompanied by a posse of former Air Chiefs met the President and blocked the enterprise. In 2002, a CDS actually appeared on the horizon: His office was prepared in South Block, Guard of Honour rehearsed by Delhi Area and *NDTV* announced Adm Sushil Kumar's elevation. But between the cup and the lip was a slip. The Naresh Chandra Task Force in 2013 revived the CDS in its less truculent avatar: Permanent Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee. But Defence Minister AK Antony sat on the proposal. It was not until Christmas Day 2019 that Modi 2.0 Government issued a gazette notification appointing Rawat as "*primus-inter-pares*-CDS" — tasking him to implement jointness by January 2023. A Department of Military Affairs was also created under MoD. Appointing a CDS has been an article of faith for the BJP.

Two questions arise from the reform process. First, did GoI do the necessary thinking and research — and who did it — before issuing the gazette notification? Why were the known historical IAF insecurities not addressed by the political authority? Unfortunately, the newly minted Defence Planning Committee under NSA AK Doval merely issued a charter of work to Rawat without the DPC doing any groundwork. Clearly such an epic transformational exercise should have begun by launching an SDSR (Strategic Defence and Security Review), preferably an Integrated Review, on the lines the UK did in March this year followed by enunciating a National Security Strategy. The DPC conveniently left the thinking to CDS, ignoring the inevitable repercussions.

> THE LACK OF CONSENSUS (WHICH ALL MILITARIES HAVE HAD TO OVERCOME) EMERGED CLUMSILY LAST MONTH DURING A SEMINAR IN WHICH BOTH RAWAT AND AIR CHIEF MARSHAL BHADAURIA SPOKE. IT WAS ONE OF THE UGLIEST PUBLIC SPATS BETWEEN A SERVICE CHIEF AND THE CDS

I recall UK Defence Secretary Michael Heseltine explaining to me on the back of an envelope at RCDS London in 1984 how he had rewired the CDS system for unification and whose implementation he ordered in the face of revolt from Service Chiefs. The reforms were ordered top-down without passing the buck.

Modi had announced the appointment of CDS from Red Fort in 2019. The Government simply issued a fiat to CDS on jointness despite knowing opposition to it. This lack of consensus (which all militaries have had to overcome) emerged clumsily last month during a seminar organised by Global Counter-Terrorism Council in which both Rawat and Air Chief Marshal Bhadauria spoke. It was one of the ugliest public spats between a service chief and CDS, which has triggered an ill-informed debate. The remedial measure of an Experts Committee headed by CDS with Vice Chiefs of single services for more consultation and discussion is a bad idea: the medicine worse than the malady. The Defence Minister ought to have intervened and done a Heseltine.

The IAF's concerns including integrated use of air power have to be addressed, given that IAF has only 30 fighter squadrons. Appointments of CDS and Combatant Commanders of other joint/integrated/unified commands and organisations be made by merit and not in Robin's turn. The concepts of air-land and tri-service battles have to be revised and updated. Joint Professional Military Education should become mandatory for promotion to flag rank. An equivalent of US Goldwater-Nichols Act 1986 will ensure jointness to diminish inter-service rivalry. India was a pioneer in integration through Joint Services Wing/National Defence Academy/Defence Services Staff College/National Defence College. But long ago, the political class responsible for defence of India stopped thinking, leaving it to the military to self-reform. The politician is required to do and say more than "giving a befitting reply".

(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.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SEERS SHOULD SHUN POLITICS

Sir — It looks that from Punjab to Karnataka, it is the season of change and a show of assertion by the central leadership of political parties to set their house in order, their sights trained on the upcoming elections. The 78-year-old, four-time Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa who had won his current term by engineering defections and toppling the Congress-JDS Government in 2019, has quit .

To date, Yediyurappa and the BJP have remained synonymous in Karnataka and now he, despite being the only mass leader the BJP had in the State and in the entire south, has now resigned. His exit leaves the BJP without an experienced leader to helm the Government. While the RSS wants to move away from caste equations by picking national organising secretary BL Santhosh, a Brahmin, many in the State BJP are against ignoring the Lingayat community that has been the BJP's mainstay all these years.

The hard fact is that the party cannot do without the support of the Lingayat community, particularly its influential mutt heads. But what is most unfortunate is that the effect of what the seers in Karnataka have said openly has the effect of dividing people on the basis of caste lines and community. If these seers are keen on a life in politics, they should drop the pretence of renunciation and contest elections.

JS Acharya | *Hyderabad*

INTERSTATE BOUNDARY ISSUE ERUPTS

Sir — The interstate boundary issue in north-eastern States is a perennial problem and six personnel of the Assam Police died at the border with Mizoram while defending the constitutional boundary of the State. The incident came less than two days after Home Minister Amit Shah met with the northeast CMs to resolve the interstate boundary disputes.

Border conflicts have occurred intermittently since Mizoram was carved out of Assam as a Union Territory in 1972 and got Statehood in 1987. Six Assam police personnel were killed in an exchange of fire with their Mizoram counterparts after the protracted border row between the two northeastern States took a violent turn. The clashes at the border town of Vairengte also left at least 60 persons from Assam injured. The incident comes less than two days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah held a meeting with the Chief Ministers of the northeast in Meghalaya's capital Shillong for resolving the interstate boundary disputes. However, Assam also harbours border disputes with Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland.

Krishnan Subramaniam | *Ghaziabad*

SC view on beggars heartening

As an imminent third wave of COVID-19 looms large, the Supreme Court refused to take an "elitist" view to ban begging and issued notices to the Centre and the Delhi Government on a petition seeking vaccination and rehabilitation of beggars in the wake of the pandemic in India. According to the apex court, no one would like to beg if not for poverty. It observed that people are generally compelled to beg to eke out elementary livelihood due to the lack of education and employment. As it was a socio-economic problem, beggars could not be stopped from begging, it added.

The Supreme Court has made the right observation regarding beggary in India. On the other hand, many factors are involved in beggary. But it is a fact that beggars are driven by poverty. However, it must be understood that the state of very poor people in the country is equal to that of beggars. As there is no proper enumeration of beggars, it is difficult to deal with the problem. Wandering beggars in the time of the COVID pandemic pose risk to the public. They must not be deprived of their right to COVID testing and vaccination. They must be rehabilitated and vocational training must be provided to them. Also, education must be provided to their children.

In spite of the advancements made by India in different sectors, beggary continues to be a social problem. As the country is striving to achieve world standards in every field, socio-economic measures are needed to solve the begging problem. A comprehensive programme must be developed for this. Philanthropic approach to beggary must be replaced with therapeutic and rehabilitative work.

Venu GS | *Kollam*

PUNISH THE CORRUPT POLITICIANS

Sir — During the election campaign season earlier, the leaders of the DMK accused the then AIADMK Government and its Ministers, including then Chief Minister E Palaniswami, of rampant corruption. They even submitted a memorandum to the Governor seeking action against those "corrupt" leaders. They also assured the electorate that if elected to power, they would initiate serious action against all the Ministers and officials found to be involved in corruption and other malpractices leading to them amassing wealth disproportionate to their known sources of income.

As assured, the DMK Government has commenced action and the recent raids conducted by the DVAC at the residence and more than 20 business places connected to former Transport Minister MR Vijayabhaskar are part of the exercise which, we believe, is going to be a continuing process henceforth. The Government that has started in the right earnest to fix the corrupt should not succumb to any pressure from any quarters, go ahead with the raids and investigations and see that the corrupt get exemplary punishment.

Shalini Gerald | *Chennai*

Send your feedback to:
letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

Your (Sidhu's) win is my win and our win is the party's win. We need to work together in the interest of the State and its people.

Punjab Chief Minister
— Amarinder Singh

Our role in Iraq will be... continue to train, to assist and to deal with ISIS but we're not going to be, by the end of the year, in a combat mission.

US President
— Joe Biden

I think it's super delicious. It's tasty and when you compare it to everything else, Indian food competes really well.

***MasterChef Australia* winner**
— Justin Narayan

I feel like my attitude wasn't that great because I don't really know how to cope with that (Olympics) pressure.

Four-time Grand Slam winner
— Naomi Osaka

Social evils begin in the mind…The fear of social stigma should deter people from demanding or giving dowry.

Kerala Governor
— Arif Mohammed Khan

FIRST COLUMN

THE GLOBAL MINIMUM TAX

Companies will have to pay a minimum tax regardless of the jurisdiction they operate from

KINNARRY **THAKKAR**

It was a historic event when 130 nations representing over 90 percent of global GDP agreed to a global minimum tax (GMT)of possibly 15 per centon corporations for a two-pillar solution to address the tax challenges arising from the globalisation and digitalisation of the economy. These countries are part of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which has been working towards preventing tax base erosion and profit shifting by companies that setup their businesses in low-tax jurisdictions to avoid payment of higher taxes. Nothing can prevent companies from engaging in such arrangements but the tax authorities became part of a global race to the bottom to compete which jurisdiction could lower their corporate tax rate most to check revenue leakage. The outcome was a double whammy: Companies still avoided taxes by locating in the jurisdictions that won this race and consequently, the tax authorities kept losing on their revenue collections. The digital companies felt the negative impact

strongly as their headquarters would be in a low-tax jurisdiction and consumers all over the world; they would thus pay tax only in the low-tax jurisdiction thus hurting the tax revenues of all other jurisdictions. To overcome this problem, several countries levied a digital services tax and collected a percentage of revenue from corporations on certain transactions. In India, an equalisation levy of six per cent for 'any specified service' provided by a non-resident in some cases and of two per cent on a non-resident e-commerce operator subject to certain criteria is presently applicable. Such measures are adopted in retaliation of the tech giants exploiting the tax treaties or doing 'treatyshopping' that puts a hole in the coffers of the State.

As a result, there is a strong consensus to make the companies pay a minimum amount of tax irrespective of the location in which their businesses are headquartered. This will deter the companies from designinga complex web of corporate layers for shifting their tax base to low-tax jurisdictions and avoid tax in the country of consumption. The solution to the problem of Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) was enunciated by OECD that provided for a framework in a pillar-wise approach as mentioned below. Pillar one proposes the reallocation of taxing rights in the jurisdictions where customers and/or users are located. Pillar two presents a global anti-base erosion mechanism to stop the shifting of profits to low tax or no-tax jurisdiction facilitated by new technologies and ensure a minimum level of tax being paid by multinational enterprises. The proposed rules aimto annihilate the idea of shifting profits by leaving no added advantage for the corporations in doing so. This will also encourage positive competition among companies by creating a level playing field that is otherwise distorted by the ability of only a few big international corporations to setup businesses in tax havens. The G-20 and the EU have supported this framework, but countries like Barbados, Estonia, Ireland, Hungary,among others, which are tax havens or low tax jurisdictions, have not signed up to the deal for various reasons. The proposed rules shall override the present digital services tax. Also, laws such as the global intangible low-taxed income (GILTI) of the US to discourage profit shifting shall have to be aligned with the proposed Inclusive framework. The proposed regulation is a giant step towards an efficient global system of taxation. Concerns of all stakeholders must be considered and addressed to formulate and implement an effective policy framework. The G-20 meeting this October will decide on the agreement and its implementation plan. The rules may take effect in 2023.

(The writer is Professor and Head, Department of Commerce, University of Mumbai, Mumbai. The views expressed are personal.)

Afghan conundrum and the road ahead

NISHTHA **KAUSHIKI**

The responses can range from total to moderate military support or maybe a combination of various strategies but India won't certainly be indifferent

The Taliban taking over Kabul or establishing a parallel regime in Afghanistan will involve the issue of legitimacy via its recognition. Strongly related to this, the message from Russia to India is clear, "it's up to India to analyse the situation and go ahead according to the current realities". The new strategic alignment of Pakistan-China-Russia is already in a process that will have a destabilising effect on the countries of South and Central Asia. With these developments, India might then have to rethink beyond its traditional strategies.

In this context, the entire debate would shift upon India's decision for the Afghan forces and the strategic developments that might follow. India might decide to help the Afghan Air Force with the Strategic Partnership Agreement (2011) being the main guiding principle. The responses can range from total military support to a moderate one or maybe a combination of various strategies, but certainly, the Indian government will not be indifferent because security is at stake.

Irrespective of the decision that would be taken, certain challenges are coming up for the government. An increase in cross-border terrorism with new forms of hybrid warfare, a sharp increase in drugs and human trafficking, especially affecting Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra, and an increase in the propaganda warfare by the adversary working in tandem with the existing and the emerging Violent Non-State Actors (VNSA). The fate of Hindus and Sikhs in Afghanistan is also in jeopardy. All these challenges are interlinked. An India-centric approach is required to deal with them.

First, at the diplomatic level, even though Russia might look to stand with Pakistan, strategic overlaps with Russia can be used for the furtherance of India's interests. As we understand that geopolitics is neither black nor white, how well the current strategic agreements are used to extract leverages would depend upon the government apart from the developments that will follow. India should exercise its strategic leverage with Saudi Arabia and other Islamic countries to tighten its noose around Pakistan in the future. The role of OIC in the coming few days would be of immense importance to India. The policy of exposing and isolating Pakistan should continue at a regional and international level. There can be no better platform than FATF and UNGA.

There is also an opportunity for India to reinvigorate its strategic relations with Iran and find new commonalities to cooperate. Iran's initial euphoria of the US exit may soon end as it might find the Taliban committing atrocities on the Shia minority in Afghanistan. Many hardliner clerics in Tehran have still not forgotten the 1998 killings of Iranian diplomats.

The upcoming refugee problem in the wake of the establishment of an Islamic emirate is going to open up new challenges for Iran. The Taliban have already taken control of Islam Qala, a military post on its border with Afghanistan. Here, an opportunity for India is open. It is through an independent Iran policy that India can deepen its strategic stronghold. Another geopolitical twist, a positive one, can be a possibility if pursued. Given the geographical proximity of India to both Afghanistan and Iran, the dynamics of the situation are well understood. The US has to accept the region's geopolitical realities. History is full of examples of states having multiple allies who probably don't see eye to each other.

> INDIA SHOULD STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENCE SYSTEM THAT IS CAPABLE OF RETALIATING TO THE EMERGING HYBRID WARFARE TECHNIQUES THAT ARE REDRAWING THE BATTLE LINES. TURKEY AND CHINA ARE THE MAIN SUPPLIERS OF DRONES TO PAKISTAN. COLLABORATIVE THREATS EITHER IN A PROXY WAR OR A MILITARY CONFLICT CANNOT BE RULED OUT

(The writer is an Assistant Professor at Central University of Punjab, Bathinda. The views expressed are personal)

The role of the UN has to be called upon as sincere joint efforts are required. India should first approach the UNSC and in case of conflicting interests, the task of maintaining normalcy and peace should be discussed in the UNGA. Having an understanding that there would be a lack of unanimity in the UNSC to protect Afghanistan and its people, India cannot let the region be sucked into chaos and anarchy. For this, sooner or later, India has to take the lead for an "emergency special session" of the UNGA. This session can be called by India and its allies under Resolution 377A (V) that provides for a 'Uniting for Peace'. India must remind the international community of its primary duty to maintain peace and security and should request recommendations to act collectively to restore the peace of the region under a unified command. The UN has provisions in case the UNSC fails to "discharge its responsibilities".

All the international legal issues such as re-arming and unlawful diplomatic recognition to the Taliban, suppression of the human rights of women, children, and religious minorities, and diversion of fundamentalists should be discussed in the UNGA to expose countries like Pakistan. This will also set the tone for India's leadership and the expansion of the UNSC. Additionally, to secure the lives and dignity of Hindus and Sikhs in Afghanistan, the government may think of evacuating them at the earliest before a full-fledged war breaks out.

Second, at a tactical level, hybrid warfare against India will deepen and broaden. New weapons and tactics utilised by the proxy militia will call for measures that favour coercive policies. For instance, the use of drones and rockets by terror groups to avoid casualties in physical attacks has already been initiated. To counter such an emerging threat, India can expand the horizons of its 'offensive defence'. It may incorporate the policy of 'deterrence by denial' through disallowing the terrorists to assemble and execute attacks against India. Of course, it has its own risk of substantial escalation when states are using VNSA. The evolving strategic communication and the military-civil interface through the media to let the world know about India's political will, intentions and interests will surely play an important role.

India should strengthen its defence system that is capable of retaliating to the emerging hybrid warfare techniques that are redrawing the battle lines. Turkey and China are the main suppliers of drones to Pakistan. Collaborative threats either in a proxy war or a military conflict cannot be ruled out. Here, a two-way approach may be adopted. Apart from strategic purchases of anti-drone platforms from the allies such as the US, Israel, France, and Germany, long-term collaboration may be pushed forward to counter the asymmetric warfare. AI is another thrust area. For instance, the US alone has around 140 projects based on AI, the knowledge of which is available in the public domain. This can be of immense help to the Indian forces. Simultaneously, indigenous R&D in defence manufacturing especially in AI technologies should be boosted for surveillance and tactical capabilities.

There are various new areas of AI that India has not yet explored. These include bio-inspired surveillance systems, AI face recognition cameras in sensitive areas, tools using AI algorithms to counter cyber-attacks, and overlook security issues such as indoctrination, sale of narcotics, and small arms through the darknet. All these measures will help the forces and will ensure efficiency in the changing times. However, the focus on AI and other technologies should not distract the government from developing new warfare platforms such as anti-submarine warfare capabilities and short-range tactical weapons to defeat the conventional threats for there are possibilities for simultaneous provocations on the border. Given the current scenario and the shifting sands, India has to strive for itself and there is no one better than India to think about the national interests.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

DURING FESTIVALS AND GAIETY, DO REMEMBER THAT CORONA IS NOT YET GONE FROM AMIDST US. YOU DON'T HAVE TO FORGET CORONA-RELATED PROTOCOLS.
— PRIME MINISTER
NARENDRA MODI

HAD YOU UNDERSTOOD THE COUNTRY'S '*MANN KI BAAT*', SUCH WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE STATE OF VACCINATIONS. #WHEREAREVACCINES
— CONGRESS LEADER
RAHUL GANDHI

Yediyurappa out, but still crucial for BJP in Karnataka

If the BJP high command handles him well, BSY, being a mass leader, could still mobilise the Lingayat vote for the party

KALYANI **SHANKAR**

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

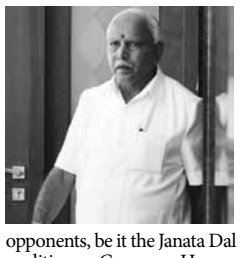
July 26 happened to be the second anniversary of Chief Minister Yediyurappa's rule in Karnataka. However, it turned out to be an occasion for an emotional farewell speech after he announced his resignation. Though BSY, as he is known in the State, resisted pressures, the high command had decided that it was time for a younger leader to take over.

Yediyurappa is now 78 and well over the party's prescribed age limit of 75 years to hold public office. He will not lead the party in the next assembly polls in 2023, as he would be over 80 by then. Karnataka is the southern gateway for the BJP. It has become the third pillar along with Congress and JD (Secular) and Yediyurappa had a big role in that.

Unfortunately, though he came to power four times, he has not completed a single term. BSY quit reluctantly as the high command had worked out his exit plans with minimum damage to the party.

Incidentally, the RSS, too, wanted a younger leader to take over. Karnataka has produced many important RSS leaders -from RSS chief, the late K. S. Sudarshan, HV Seshadri to present-day leaders like Dattareya Hosbole, B.L. Santosh, and C.R. Mukund.

Yediyurappa has been an asset as well as a liability to the party. BSY was a shrewd manipulator who knew how to snatch power from the



opponents, be it the Janata Dal coalition or Congress. He was adept at using age-old tricks of defection and lure of money. Even in the 2017 polls, the BJP did not get a simple majority. To keep BJP out, the Congress and the JD(S) formed a government with the JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy as Chief Minister. Yediyurappa pulled down this government in 2019 and became the chief minister for the fourth time.

Why is Yediyurappa important for the BJP? First of all, there is no Lingayat leader to match him in the state, either in Congress or the JD(S). The BJP also did not develop the second rung of leadership.

Secondly, crucial caste politics favour him. Lingayats are the State's single-most significant community, (17 percent). Of the 500 mutts in the state, most are headed by Lingayats, followed by Vokkaliga mutts. The community can tilt the balance in as many as 90-100 of the State's 224 assembly constituencies. The seers, who received support financially and otherwise from the chief minister, openly supported BSY.

The Lingayats traditionally supported the Congress but moved away in the seventies only to return briefly. But they withdrew their support after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi abruptly sacked popular Lingayat chief minister Veerendra Patil. In the 1994 assembly elections, the community voted against Congress. This was the time when BSY emerged as the face of the Lingayats. Barring 2013, the BJP always had more than 30 Liingayat MLAs in the House - 32 in 2004, 39 in 2008, and 38 in 2018.

Yediyurappa has risen from the RSS ranks and been a seven-term MLA between 1983 and 2013. He joined the RSS when he was barely 15 and cut his political teeth in the Jana Sangh. A mass leader who installed the first BJP government in South India in 2008, BSY continues to have his own place in the State, despite the corruption charges, nepotism, and voices of dissent.

His meteoric rise in Karnataka was checked in the wake of a land scam that cost him the chief minister's job. He walked out of the BJP in 2012 to float his outfit, the Karnataka Janta Paksha (KJP), which dealt a severe blow to the BJP in the 2013 assembly elections.

The return of Yediyurappa consolidated the Lingayat vote base again in the 2014 general elections. While dealing with him, the BJP leadership had to keep this in mind. For the fourth time, he took over as the chief minister in July 2019 after engineering defections of 18 MLAs from Congress and the Janata Dal (S). By then he had already crossed 76 years and like before, was facing corruption and nepotism charges from his party detractors.

With the chief minister drumming up support from the mighty Lingayat mutts, the BJP cannot ignore BSY because holding Karnataka is critical for the party before the 2023 Assembly polls or the 2024 General elections.

BSY's innings may be over but if the BJP high command handles him well, being a mass leader, he could still mobilize the Lingayat votes. His successor has a tough job ahead, taking everyone along in a state where factionalism always prevailed.

Biden: US combat mission in Iraq to end this year

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden said on Monday that the U.S. combat mission in Iraq will conclude by the end of the year, an announcement that reflects the reality on the ground more than a major shift in U.S. policy.

Even before Biden took office, the main U.S. focus has been assisting Iraqi forces, not fighting on their behalf. And Biden did not say if he planned to reduce the number of troops in Iraq, now about 2,500.

The announcement comes on the heels of Biden's decision to withdraw fully from Afghanistan nearly 20 years after the U.S. launched that war in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Together, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have heavily taxed the U.S. military and kept it from devoting more attention to a rising China, which the Biden administration calls the biggest long-term security challenge.

For years, U.S. troops have played support roles in Iraq and in neighboring Syria, which was the origin of the Islamic State group that swept across the border in 2014 and captured large swaths of Iraqi territory, prompting the U.S. to send troops back to Iraq that year.

Speaking to reporters during an Oval Office session with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, Biden said his administration remained committed to a partnership with Iraq — a relationship that has been increasingly complicated by Iranian-backed Iraqi militia groups.

The militias want all U.S. troops out of Iraq immediately and have periodically attacked bases that house American troops.

Dan Caldwell, a senior adviser to Concerned Veterans for America, said U.S. troops will remain at risk.

"Regardless of whether their deployment is called a combat mission, U.S. troops will remain under regular attack as long as they remain in Iraq," Caldwell said in a statement.

"An American military presence in Iraq is not necessary for our safety and only risks the loss of more American life."

Biden said the U.S. military will continue to assist Iraq in its fight against the Islamic State group, or ISIS. A joint U.S.-Iraq statement said the security relationship will be focused on training, advising and intelligence-sharing.

"Our shared fight against ISIS is critical for the stability of the region and our counterterrorism operation will continue, even as we shift to this new phase we're going to be talking about," Biden said.

The shift from a U.S. combat role to one focused on training and advising the Iraqi security forces was announced in April, when a joint U.S.-Iraqi statement said this transition allowed for the removal from Iraq of any remaining U.S. combat forces on a timetable to be determined later.

It did not specify what combat functions the U.S. was engaged in then, nor did Biden get into such specifics on Monday.

US Prez's first visit to intel agency to contrast with Trump's

AP ■ WASHINGTON

President Joe Biden is making his first visit to an agency of the US intelligence community, looking to emphasise his confidence in national security leaders after his predecessor's incendiary battles against what he often derided as the "deep state".

Biden is scheduled Tuesday afternoon to visit the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, which oversees the 17 US intelligence organisations. The White House said in a statement that Biden intends to express "admiration for their work and underscore the importance for our national security of intelligence collection and analysis free from political interference".

President Donald Trump visited the Central Intelligence Agency on his first full day in office, praising the agencies but also airing personal grievances. Standing in front of CIA's memorial wall with stars marking each of the officers who have died while serving, Trump settled scores with the media and repeated false claims about the size of his inauguration crowd.

The relationship between the intelligence community and the president "went downhill from that very day," said Glenn Gerstell, who then served as general counsel of the National Security Agency and stepped down last year.

Trump would go through four permanent or acting directors of national intelligence in four years and engaged in near-constant fights with the intelligence community.

In particular, he was angry about its assessment that Russia had interfered on his behalf in the 2016 presidential campaign and its role in revealing that Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate Biden, an action that ultimately led to Trump's first impeachment. Trump eventually fired the inspector general at the national intelligence office - the internal watchdog who brought that pressure to light.

Trump inaugural chair: I'm '100% innocent' in lobbying case

New York: The chair of former President Donald Trump's 2017 inaugural committee pleaded not guilty on Monday and said he was "100 per cent innocent" of charges that he secretly lobbied the U.S. On behalf of the United Arab Emirates.

Tom Barrack, 74, wearing a black mask to protect against the coronavirus, appeared in Brooklyn Federal Court for the first time, days after he was freed on $250 million bail following his arrest in California. His lawyer entered his plea for him.

"As you'd expect, the system is working. I think what you'll find is that … over time, you'll all see that I'm 100per cent innocent," Barrack said as he left the courthouse.

Prosecutors say Barrack used his multidecade friendship with Trump to influence the Republican's policy, starting when Trump was a candidate in 2016 and continuing after he was sworn in as president.

AP

At first Jan 6 hearing, police to detail violence, injuries

AP ■ WASHINGTON

Democrats are launching their investigation into the January 6 Capitol insurrection Tuesday with a focus on the law enforcement officers who were attacked and beaten as the rioters broke into the building — an effort to put a human face on the violence of the day.

The police officers who are scheduled to testify endured some of the worst of the brutality. They were punched, trampled, crushed and sprayed with chemical irritants. They were called racial slurs and threatened with their own weapons as the mob of then-President Donald Trump's supporters overwhelmed them, broke through windows and doors and interrupted the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's presidential win.

"We're going to tell this story from the beginning," said Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin, a Democrat who sits on the new House panel that is investigating the attack. "The moral center of gravity is these officers who put their lives on the line for us."

Testifying will be Capitol Police officers Harry Dunn and Aquilino Gonell and Metropolitan Police officers Michael Fanone and Daniel Hodges. In previous interviews, Dunn has said that attackers yelled racial slurs and fought him in what resembled hand to hand combat as he held them back. Gonell, an Iraq veteran, detailed surgery on his foot and injuries from which he struggled to recover. Fanone has described being dragged down the Capitol steps by rioters who shocked him with a stun gun and beat him. Hodges was beaten and crushed between two doors, and his bloody face and anguished screams were caught on video.

The panel's first hearing comes as partisan tensions have only worsened since the insurrection, with many Republicans playing down, or outright denying, the violence that occurred and denouncing the Democratic-led investigation as politically motivated.

Winds feed California's largest fire as blazes scorch West

Indian Falls (US): It could be days before officials will be able to assess the damage done to a small town by California"s largest wildfire, one of dozens of blazes scorching lands across the US West.

Over the weekend, the massive Dixie Fire roared through the remote Northern California community of Indian Falls. The blaze had already levelled at least 16 houses and other structures, but a new damage estimate wasn"t immediately available because flames were still raging in the mountain area on Monday.

"Fire behaviour has been so unpredictable, it hasn"t been safe for inspectors to go in to work," said Mitch Matlow, a fire spokesman. "Until things settle down, we won"t know the extent of what"s burned." *AP*

With virus surge, US to keep travel restrictions for now

AP ■ WASHINGTON

The United States served notice on Monday that it will keep existing Covid-19 travel restrictions on international travel in place for now due to concerns about the surging infection rate because of the delta variant.

It was the latest sign that the White House is having to recalibrate its thinking around the coronavirus pandemic as the more infectious variant surges across the U.S. And a substantial chunk of the population resists vaccination.

It was also a reversal from the sentiment President Joe Biden voiced earlier this month when he said his administration was "in the process" of considering how soon the U.S. Could lift the ban on European travel bound for the U.S. After the issue was raised by German Chancellor Angela Merkel during her visit to the White House.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the restrictions would continue for now.

"Driven by the delta variant, cases are rising here at home, particularly among those who are unvaccinated, and appears likely to continue in the weeks ahead," she said.

The rising cases also are causing the administration to take a closer look at policies on wearing masks. On Monday, the Department of Veterans Affairs became the first first major federal agency to require its health care workers to get COVID-19 vaccines.

US pays $4 bn to Afghan forces; Who is watching?

Islamabad: The US and NATO have promised to pay $ 4 billion a year until 2024 to finance Afghanistan's military and security forces, which are struggling to contain an advancing Taliban. Already, the US has spent nearly $ 89 billion over the past 20 years to build, equip and train Afghan forces.

Yet America's own Government watchdog says oversight of the money has been poor, hundreds of millions of dollars have been misspent and corruption is rife in the security apparatus.

Monitoring where the future funding goes will become virtually impossible after August 31, when the last coalition troops leave. Here is a look at some of the issues:

US SPENDING SINCE 2001

Nearly USD 83 billion has been spent to build, equip, train and sustain Afghanistan's National Defence and Security Forces, which include the military, national police and the elite special forces.

That figure covers a wide range of items. For example, the US spent nearly USD 10 billion for vehicles and aircraft. It spent USD 3.75 billion on fuel for the Afghan military between 2010-2020.

AP

4 Afghan journalists held by intelligence agency, claims Af Press Group

AP ■ KABUL

Four Afghan journalists were arrested by the country's intelligence service after they returned to the city of Kandahar following a reporting trip to a border area recently taken by the Taliban, an Afghan press freedom group said Tuesday.

The four had travelled to Spin Boldak to interview Taliban commanders after the insurgents captured a border crossing there with Pakistan. A spokesman for the Interior Ministry says the four are accused of spreading propaganda for the Taliban.

The Afghan media watchdog known as Nai said they returned home to Kandahar on Monday and were arrested by the National Directorate for Security. Nai says that the journalists' whereabouts on Tuesday was not known.

Three of the reporters — Bsimullah Wantandost, Qudrat Sultani and Moheb Obaidi — work for the local radio station Mellat Zhagh. The fourth is Sanaullah Siam, a cameraman for the Xinhua News Agency, the group said.

Taliban spokesman Mohmmad Naeem, with the insurgents' political office in Qatar, condemned the arrest by the "Afghan administration," saying the four were only doing their job, trying to "follow the events and try to reveal the facts." Nai said the arrest was illegal and demanded the journalists' immediate release.

Later Tuesday, Afghan interior ministry spokesman Mirwais Stanikzai said the four have been accused of spreading enemy propaganda. He insisted the Kabul government is committed to freedom of expression but cautioned it must abide by the constitution and the laws of the country.

"Any kind of propaganda for the benefit of terrorists and the enemy as well as against the national interest of Afghanistan, will be counted as a crime," Stanikzai added.

Reporters work under extremely difficult circumstances in Afghanistan, and often face violence, threats and intimidation, preventing them from carrying out their work properly.

The war-torn nation has over 2,000 officially registered media outlets. Violence against journalists was up 26% in 2020, compared to 2019, according to the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee, which recorded 132 threats and acts of violence against journalists and media workers last year.

16 injured, five missing in explosion at German chemical hub

Berlin: An explosion at an industrial park for chemical companies shook the German city of Leverkusen on Tuesday, sending a large black cloud rising into the air. At least 16 people were injured and five remain missing.

Germany's Federal Office for Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance classified the explosion as "an extreme threat" and asked residents to stay inside, turn off ventilation systems and keep windows and doors closed, German news agency DPA reported.

Later on Tuesday, however, the Cologne fire department tweeted that measurements of the air's pollution "do not show any kind of abnormality." They said the smoke had gone down but that they would continue to measure the air for toxins.

The city of Leverkusen said in a statement that the explosion at the Chempark site, about 20 kilometers (13 miles) north of Cologne on the Rhine river, occurred in storage tanks for solvents. It said four people were severely injured and 12 less seriously. Five people are missing.

Currenta, the company operating the chemical park, said the explosion happened at 9:40 a.m. at the storage tanks of their waste management center and then developed into a fire.

"Sirens were operated to warn residents and warning alerts were sent," Currenta said in the statement.

Police in nearby Cologne said a large number of officers, firefighters, helicopters and ambulances from across the region had been deployed to the scene. *AP*

Guilty verdict in first trial under Hong Kong security law

HONG KONG: The first person to be tried under Hong Kong's sweeping national security law was found guilty of secessionism and terrorism on Tuesday in a ruling closely watched for indications of how the law will be applied as China tightens its grip on the city long known for its freedoms.

Tong Ying-kit was charged with inciting secession and terrorism for driving his motorcycle into a group of police officers last year while carrying a flag bearing the banned protest slogan "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times." Rights groups condemned his conviction, and many are bracing for further such trials since more than 100 people have been arrested under the legislation — part of Beijing's increasing crackdown on dissent in Hong Kong following months of anti-government protests in 2019.

Tong, a 24-year-old restaurant worker, pleaded not guilty to the charges, arguing the slogan itself does not call for secession. He now faces a maximum sentence of life imprisonment, but his lawyers are expected to argue for a lighter punishment at his sentencing hearing Thursday.

The new national security legislation not only resulted in the charges against Tong, but it also spelled out how the trial would be conducted. The proceedings, which ended July 20, were held in the Hong Kong High Court with no jury, under rules allowing the exception from Hong Kong's common law system if state secrets need to be protected, foreign forces are involved or if the personal safety of jurors needs to be protected. Trials are presided over by judges handpicked by Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam.

Reading the verdict, Justice Esther Toh said Tong "committed terrorist activities causing or intended to cause grave harm to the society" in pursuit of a political agenda.

His behavior was an act of violence aimed at coercing the central and Hong Kong governments and intimidating the public and carrying the flag constituted an act of incitement to secession, she said.

Tong did not speak during the reading of the verdict. He waved to his parents and others in the gallery as he was escorted from the chamber.

Tong's defense lawyer has said it's impossible to prove that Tong was inciting secession merely by having used the slogan.

The defense also said there is no evidence that Tong committed the act deliberately, that he tried to avoid crashing into officers and that his actions couldn't be considered terrorism since there was no serious violence or harm to society. *AP*

इंडियन बैंक
Indian Bank
(ERSTWHILE ALLAHABAD BANK)

BRANCH : SAM LUDHIANA, 165-INDUSTRIAL AREA A, CHEEMA CHOWK LUDHIANA

WILFUL DEFAULTER

Ref.No: SAMB/WD-Not/SatiaSyn/2021-22/120 DATED: 07.07.2021

To,
1. M/s Satia Synthetics Ltd. Ist Address:- Vill Lubanianwali, Firozepur Road, Distt. Muktsar, Punjab-152026. **IInd Address:-** At Street No.6, Dharampura, Samrala Road, Ludhiana, Punjab-141008. **IIIrd Address:-** At 613-615, Navrang House 21, K G Marh, New Delhi-110001. **IVth Address:-** At SCO No.90-92, Sector-8C, Madhya Marg, Chandigarh-160009. **2. Sh. Anil Satia** S/o Bal Raj Satia. **Ist Address:-** R/o Satia Niwas, Railway Road, Distt.Muktsar, Punjab-152026. **IInd Address:-** At House No.44, Sector-8 A, Chandigarh-160008. **3. Sh. Suresh Kumar Singla,** House No. 52, Young Dwellers Society, Sector-49A, Chandigarh-160049 **4. Sh. Sanjeev Sethi** 10, Maqbool Road, Amritsar, Punjab-143001. **5. Sh. Birendra Singh Kushwah** R/o House No. 964/2, Adesh Nagar, Distt.Muktsar, Punjab-152026. **6. Sh. Kulbir Singh Pahwa** House No. 712, Sector 8B, Chandigarh-160008. **Guarantor(s): 7. Sh. Ankit Satia** S/o Anil Satia **Ist Address:-** R/o Satia Niwas, Railway Road, Distt.Muktsar, Punjab-152026. **IInd Address:-** At House No. 124, Sector-8A, Chandigarh-160008. **8. Smt. Saloni Satia** W/o Anil Satia. **Ist Address:-** R/o Satia Niwas, Railway Road, Distt.Muktsar, Punjab-152026. **IInd Address:-** At House No. 44, Sector-8A, Chandigarh-160008. **9. Sh. Akhil Satia S/o Anil Satia, Ist Address:-** R/o Satia Niwas, Railway Road, Distt.Muktsar, Punjab-152026. **IInd Address:-** At House No. 44, Sector-8A, Chandigarh-160008.
Dear Sir,
SUB: M/S Satia Synthetics with **SAM Ludhiana Branch-Classifying as Wilful Defaulter show cause notice**

This is per the direction of **Wilful Defaulter Screening Committee (WDSC)** issued Vide its Order/decision dated **13.05.2021** and in terms of the findings of the said Screening Committee wherein the Committee Observes as under:

That, the first of you is the borrower company in which second to sixth of you are the Directors and seventh to ninth of you are the guarantors has availed credit facility under Consortium Banking from our bank. The aforesaid borrower company i.e. **M/s. Satia Synthetics Ltd.** was sanctioned credit facility of **Rs 13.00 Crore on 23.03.2017** on the terms and conditions stipulated in the sanction letter & in the documents executed by all of you in pursuance thereto through Our Kalsi Nagar Ludhiana Branch. The limit sanctioned to the company are secured by Hypothecation and Equitable mortgage of Assets as mentioned below:

NATURE OF SECURITY	NATURE OF CHARGE
All Current Assets of the Company (both Present as well as future) includsing Stocks and book debts)	Hypothication 1st Charge with Other lenders
Fixed Assets of the Company (both Present as well as future) and EM of Property which is in the name of Company with total area 192.95 Kanal (or) 24.1188 acre at Village Lubanianwali, Firozepur Road, Muktsar, Punjab as per Various Deeds Mentioned: **1.** Sale Deed No. 85 dt 07.04.1997. **2.** Sale Deed No. 2357 dt 20.11.1996. **3.** Sale Deed No. 2341 dt 18.11.1996.**4.** Sale Deed No. 2342 dt 19.11.1996. **5.** Sale Deed No. 2484 dt 04.12.1996. **6.** Sale Deed No. 3113 dt 31.01.1997.**7.** Sale Deed No. 62 dt 04.04.1997.	First Pari-passu charge with other lenders
EM of Kanal Plot Situated at Muktsar in the name of Sh. Anil Satia.	First Pari-passu charge with other lenders
EM of 32 Kanals 8 Marlas (4.05 Acre) of land in the name of Smt. Saloni Satia Situated at Village Lubanian Wali.	First Pari-passu charge with other lenders

The aforesaid borrower company was requested to pay interest and other charges and also the installments of the principal in accordance with the terms of the sanction ticket and loan agreements executed by the borrowers guarantors. However, the borrower has failed for payment of dues and committed default in performing the conditions in the loan agreement,causing thereby classification of the account as NPA as per RBI guidelines.
The Status of the account is enumerated hereunder: **(Rs. In Crores)**

S.No.	DATE OF NPA	DUES ON 26/05/2019
1.	31.03.2019	12.28+MOI

In view of the default committed by the borrower, the case was examined by the **WDSC** on **13.05.2021** with a view to ascertain Willful default on the part of borrowers/ guarantors as per the guidelines laid down by the RBI. It was Observed by the screening committee that the guarantors had committed various Wilful irregularities/deíaults as detailed borrowers hereunder and accordingly meets the criteria to be classified as willful Defaulter in terms of the guidelines laid down by the RBI. The irregularities/defaults/evidences as extracted out by the screening committee and directed to be communicated to the borrowers guarantors calling for their submission as to why they should not be declared as wilful defaulter as per RBI guidelines are enumerated as under:
Cause of Action: Diversion of funds -2.1.3(b) read with 2. 2.1(a). 2. 2.1(c) and 2. 2 .1(d)
Evidences/Events of Wilful Default:
1. During the FY 2016-17, the company was not able to generate sufficlent cash flow fromn operating activities even to meet its interest obligations. During FY 2016-17 and FY 2017- 18 additional short term borrowing of Rs. 11.42 crores and Rs. 2.65 crores was availed. The borrower company has utilized the **2.** above amounts towards payment of finance costs and investing in Long-Term Assets instead of utilization towards Working capital.
Variation in Stock & Book Debts statement submitted to Bank and Audited Balance Sheet **(Rs. In Crores)**

CLASSIFICATION	FY 2015-16		FY 2016-17		FY 2017-18	
	STOCK STATEMENT 28.03.2016	AUDITED FINANCIALS 31.03.2016	STOCK STATEMENT 31.03.2017	AUDITED FINANCIALS 31.03.2017	STOCK STATEMENT 31.03.2018	AUDITED FINANCIALS 31.03.2018
STOCKS	106.22	128.38	127.57	154.66	139.04	139.04
DEBTORS	42.00	40.80	42.06	42.70	41.73	44.87
CREDITORS	48.64	70.58	55.58	90.40	91.86	110.32
TOTAL DRAWING POWER	91.97	80.29	107.96	102.87	116.58	70.98
OUTSTANDING FROM BANK	91.14	91.14	102.57	102.57	105.22	105.22
OVER DRAWINGS		(10.85)				(34.24)

Debtors upto 90 days declared in the stock statement as on 28.03.2016 is Rs 41.75 Crores. Whereas in audited financials it is only RS. 13.41 Crores. Drawing Power computed as per the financial statements is Rs. 80.29 crores only. Debtors upto 90 days declared in the stock statement as on 31.03.2017 Is Rs. 41.70 crores whereas in audited Financials It Is only Rs. 25.35 crores. 1 he borrower has shifted creditors of Rs. 1646 crores to "other Liabilities in March 201/ and thereby reducing the value of Creditors and has not declared the same for the purpose o Computation of drawing power. Debtors upto 90 days declared in the stock statement as on 31.03.2018 is Rs. 41.73 crores whereas in audited financials It is only Rs. 20.85 crores Ihe borrower did not declare correct value of creditors in the monthly stock statement submitted to bank. Drawing Power Computed as per the financial statements is Rs 70.98 crores only. The Borrower Company was operating current account With Punjab National Bank bearing Current Account No. 1696002100000650 which is outside the consortium bank.

SUM OF DEBIT			SUM OF CREDIT		
2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
0.01	2.78	13.10	0.01	2.78	13.10

* On perusal of Book of Accounts, it is observed that receivables from 8 parties constitute more than 80% of Total Receivables. The borrower has not provided supporting documents for sales invoices like Lorry Receipts and Transport Documents.
* Majority of the sales are made to related parties, proprietor and partnership firms tor which proper supporting documents evidencing movement of goods were not enclosed with sales invoices. In case or related party 1.e, M/s. TC Terrytex Ltd. it is observed there are 2 way transactions i/e., considerable sales and purchases are made with the company. It is observed that in some instances supporting documents were deficient and not satisfactory.
*In case or Shakti I Trading Company Rs. 1.48 crores Is receivable since FY 2015-16 and the same is grouped under "Cotton Supplier Advances during FY 2015-16 but subsequently the same has been regrouped as Receivables" in FY 2017-18. The reason for giving such advance where no goods were received against the same remains unexplained
It is observed that the Waste percentage increased from 9% during FY 2015-16 to 17%during FY 2017-18.
In view of the above, in terms of Diversion of funds -2.1.3(b) read with 2.2.1(a), 2.2.1(c) and 2.2.1(0) of the RBI Master Circular No. No. RBI/ 2015-16/100 DBR. No. CID. BC.22/20.16.003/2015-16 dated 01.07 2015, each of you are required by the WDSC to show cause as to why each of you should not be a declared a wilful defaulter for the reported diversion / Siphoning of funds/reasons specified hereinabove.
Please ensure that your reply should reach us on or beFore 29.07.2021 tailing which the committee would be constrained to proceed further in the matter based on the evidence on record treating as if yōu have no reason/explanation to offer in rebuttal.

BRANCH MANAGER
FOR WILFUL DEFAULTER SCREENING COMMITTEE (WDSC)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public at large is hereby informed that membership No 168 held by Mrs Sarita Khanna W/o Mr Ashok Kumar Khanna of Flat No A-203, Fakhruddin Memorial CGHS Ltd, Plot No-18, Sect-10, Dwarka, New Delhi have reported loss/misplace of her share certificate.The society is in process of issuing duplicate certificate to her after completion of all formalities, still the public at large is herein informed that if there is any claimant against the above said share certificate, may approach to Society in their office within 15 days failing which the duplicate certificate will be issued to her.

Amarjeet-General Secretary
FMCGHS Ltd

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform public in general that Kotak Mahindra bank ltd has organized an auction in below mention respect of Vehicles.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

1) ASHOK LEYLAND ECOMET 1212- REG. NO. HR74A1718-YOM -2012
2) CB_ALECOMET1214 REG. NO. UP25CT6923-YOM-2018
3) EICHR_VECVVE1075FB REG. NO. UP45T2205 YOM -2012
4) EICHR_VECVVE1059FB REG. NO. DL1MA2627 YOM -2019
5) TATAMOTORSTATAXENON REG. NO. HR38Y6433 YOM -2018
6) EICHR_VECVVE1110CHTK REG. NO. HR69C2416 YOM -2018
7) TATAMOTORSTATALP709C REG. NO. DL1LAA7908 YOM -2017
8) SML SARTAJ REG. NO. DL1LY0901-YOM- 2017
9) TATA 709 REG. NO. HR67C3436-YOM -2018
10) EICHER1075 REG. NO. DL1LAC2230-YOM -2019
11) TACEGOLD REG. NO. DL1LAE4137-YOM -2020
12) TATAACE REG. NO. UP15ET8750-YOM -2020
13) TATA MOTOR ACE REG. NO. DL1LY3711-YOM -2017
14) SARTAJ_XM REG. NO. UP14GT9539-YOM -2018
15) VE1114FB- REG. NO. HR55AG3024-YOM -2019
16) ACE_ZIP_GD REG. NO. DL1LAB5528-YOM -2018

UNDER HYPOTHECATION WITH M/S KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK IS UNDER SALE IN ITS "AS IS WHERE IS CONDITION" INTERESTED PARTIES CAN GIVE THEIR QUOTATIONS WITH IN 07 DAYS AT
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK
3RD FLOOR, PLOT NO 7, SECTOR 125, NOIDA-201313 OR CONTACT: RAJESH ANTIL / NITESH MATHUR
KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK LTD.
CONTACT NO.9711173320 /7838225565

IMF cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 9.5 pc for FY22

PTI ■ WASHINGTON

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday cut its economic growth forecast for India to 9.5 per cent for the fiscal year to March 31, 2022 as the onset of a severe second Covid-19 wave cut into recovery momentum.

This forecast for 2021-22 is lower than the 12.5 per cent growth in GDP that IMF had projected in April before the second wave took a grip.

For 2022-23, IMF expects economic growth of 8.5 per cent, larger than the 6.9 per cent it had projected in April.

"Growth prospects in India have been downgraded following the severe second COVID wave during March-May and expected slow recovery in confidence from that setback," IMF said in its latest World Economic Outlook (WEO).

India's economy is gradually recovering from a deep contraction in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021 (7.3 per cent) and a subsequent severe second wave of COVID-19.

IMF joins a host of global and domestic agencies which have cut India's growth estimates for the current fiscal. Last month, S&P Global Ratings projected a 9.5 per cent GDP growth in the current fiscal and 7.8 per cent in 2022-23.

While World Bank sees GDP growth at 8.3 per cent from April 2021 to March 2022, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) last week downgraded India's economic growth forecast to 10 per cent from 11 per cent estimated in April.

Another US-based rating agency Moody's has projected India clocking 9.3 per cent growth in the current fiscal ending March 2022. For 2021 calendar year, Moody's has cut the growth estimate sharply to 9.6 per cent.

FDI in food processing sector falls 57 pc to USD 393 mn in FY21

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in food processing sector declined 57 per cent to USD 393.4 million (around ₹2,926 crore) in 2020-21 as compared to the previous year, the government said on Tuesday. In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Prahlad Singh Patel said the FDI policy and data are the under purview of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.

"As per extant policy, 100 per cent FDI for FPI sector is permitted under the automatic route implying that no prior approval of the Government or RBI is required. As per the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), the Indian recipient company has to report the inflow of FDI to Reserve Bank of India," he said. The FDI received by food processing industries (FPI) sector during 2020-21 stood at USD 393.4 million as against USD 904.7 million in the previous year.

During 2018-19, FDI in FPI sector stood at USD 628.24 million. Patel said the ministry has been implementing Central Sector Umbrella Scheme - Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) since 2016-17 for overall growth and development of the food processing sector, including processing of agroproducts and thus increasing the income of farmers.

The component schemes of PMKSY are -- Mega Food Park, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Creation /Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities, Infrastructure for Agro-Processing Clusters.

Higher Q1 tax mop-up shows economy on recovery path: Govt

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Increased tax collection in the first quarter this fiscal shows that the economy is on the recovery path, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said on Tuesday.

Net direct tax collection in the April-June quarter of the current fiscal is over ₹2.46 lakh crore, as against more than ₹1.17 lakh crore during the same period of the previous fiscal.

"Reasons for increase in the collections include revival of economic activities and positive sentiments among taxpayers during this current financial year, leading to increased income estimates and higher advance tax payments in the first quarter of the FY 2021-22 as compared to the corresponding period of FY 2020-21," he said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

Net Indirect Tax (GST and non-GST) revenue collection in the first quarter of FY 2021-22 is ₹3.11 lakh crore, he said.

"The increased tax collection (Direct & Indirect) as reported in the first quarter of the current financial year as compared to the same period previous financial year shows that the economy is on the recovery path. Higher tax collection would enable Government in increasing public expenditure, which would have a positive impact on GDP," Chaudhary added.

Govt says 78 foreign companies registered in India last fiscal year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

As many as 78 foreign companies were registered in the country under the companies law in the last financial year, according to official data.

In 2019-20, a total of 124 foreign companies were registered in India. The count was at 118 in 2018-19.

The data was provided by Minister of State for Corporate Affairs Rao Inderjit Singh in a written reply to Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

"Foreign Company is defined under Section 2 (42) of the Companies Act, 2013 (the Act) as any company or body corporate incorporated outside India which (a) has a place of business in India by itself or through an agent, physically or thorough electronic mode and (b) conducts any business activity in India in any other manner," the minister said.

Sensex tumbles for 2nd day as Asian sell-off deepens on China crackdown

Mumbai: Domestic markets surrendered early gains to close in the red for the second straight session on Tuesday as sentiment remained risk-averse amid lacklustre corporate earnings and a deepening sell-off in Asian markets post China's regulatory crackdown on tech companies.

The 30-share BSE Sensex skidded 273.51 points or 0.52 per cent to finish at 52,578.76, while the broader NSE Nifty fell 78 points or 0.49 per cent to 15,746.45.

Dr Reddy's was the top loser among the Sensex constituents, plunging 10.44 per cent, after the company reported a 36 per cent decline in consolidated net profit at ₹380.4 crore for the quarter ended June 30, 2021, on account of higher expenses.

Rupee declines by 5 paise to 74.47 on strong dollar sentiment

Mumbai: The rupee slipped by 5 paise to close at 74.47 (provisional) against the US currency on Tuesday as the dollar strengthened in the overseas markets and the domestic equity indices closed with losses.

Forex traders said the rupee is trading in a narrow range as investors are awaiting cues from the US Fed's policy decision due on Wednesday and month-end rebalancing.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the local unit opened at 74.36 against the dollar and witnessed an intra-day high of 74.35 and a low of 74.54 during the session.

Punjab National Bank holds 20th AGM through Video conference

New Delhi: Punjab National Bank, the nation's leading public sector bank, held the 20th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Bank's shareholders. Amidst the prevailing Covid-19 situation, the Bank conducted its AGM through video conference, without the physical presence of shareholders at a common venue, in accordance with guidelines issued by SEBI and MCA. CH. S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao, MD & CEO of PNB, while addressing the Shareholders at the 20th AGM of the Bank , highlighted bank's performance and various initiatives undertaken during FY 2020-21.

DGGI investigating GST evasion in railway tenders

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The GST investigation arm DGGI is investigating misclassification of rail supplies by bidders in tenders by Indian Railways, Parliament was informed on Tuesday.

"Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Intelligence (DGGI) has initiated investigations into tenders awarded by Indian Railways since July 2017, to crack down on instances of misclassification of rail supplies by bidders who have been charged with evading taxes," Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary said.

Container crisis, high freight charges hit exports from Kolkata

PTI ■ KOLKATA

A shortage of containers and increased freight charges are adversely affecting exports from Kolkata causing apprehensions of huge financial and business loss, exporters said on Tuesday.

The crisis of vessel space and containers is nationwide but the situation is worse in Kolkata, they said.

"Availability of containers is less than half of the demand causing disruptions in exports and delivery schedule has gone haywire.

Predictability of availability of container and freight rates is not there anymore. Freight rates have jumped 2-3 times of the pre-Covid levels," Federation of Indian Export Organisations(FIEO) chairman-east, Sushil Patwari told PTI. Freight charges have skyrocketed and freight forwarders to the West Coast are also declining to book cargo due to severe scarcity of containers, exporters said.

Govt focussed on enabling policies to strengthen digital infrastructure: DoT official

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Digitisation and growth-oriented initiatives have enabled India to take progressive strides, and the government is focused on policies in areas like licencing framework, spectrum management and broadband to strengthen digital infrastructure, a senior DoT official said on Tuesday.

Telecom and IT industries have achieved a level of maturity and built capabilities for business, technology, innovations and an appetite for startups, T K Paul, Member (Technology), Department of Telecom (DoT), said. Speaking at a virtual event organised by Broadband India Forum (BIF), Paul said, "(The) government is looking at a series of policy initiatives to propel India to this path of growth of digital infrastructure and the digital economy as a whole". This involves having a fresh look at issues, be it a licensing and legislative framework, spectrum management, new technology and innovations, broadband infrastructure, ease of doing business, manufacturing,and research and development.

कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियन्ता, निर्माण खण्ड, उ0प्र0 जल निगम, अमरोहा
मौहल्ला मोती नगर, निकट निशा पैलेस, अमरोहा– 244221

पत्रांक 1274/निविदा/09
दिनांक 24.07.2021

अति अल्प कालीन ई–निविदा सूचना

एतद्द्वारा इस खण्ड के अन्तर्गत जनपद अमरोहा के जिला संयुक्त चिकित्सालय अमरोहा में 100 बेड मेडिकल गैस पाइप लाइन की स्थापना हेतु निविदा सूचना संख्या–1274/निविदा/09, दिनांक 24.07.2021 द्वारा ई–टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से प्रतिशत दरों के आधार पर आनलाइन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। आमंत्रित निविदा दिनांक 27.07.2021 से दिनांक 01.08.2021 अपरान्ह 12:00 बजे तक आनलाइन सबमिट की जा सकती है तथा तकनीकी बिड उसी दिन दिनांक 01.08.2021 अपरान्ह 3:00 बजे अद्योहस्ताक्षरी के कार्यालय में खोली जायेंगी। निविदा से सम्बन्धित आवश्यक सूचना, निविदा प्रपत्र, निविदा शर्तें एवं ऑनलाइन निविदा उपलोड किये जाने व डाउनलोड किये जाने की तिथि आदि का समस्त विवरण *http://etender.up.nic.in* पर उपलब्ध है।

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sujata Zutshi, my husband Shri Ajay Kumar Bamzai, R/o Flat No.503, Tower CG2, Sector-74 Noida, G.B. Nagar, passed away on 11 May 2021. I have requested Supertech Ltd. to transfer the flat number 1103, in Tower-CM1,IN SUPER TECH CAPETWON, GH01/A, SECTOR-74, NOIDA which was in my and his name,to the single name of me. If anyone has an objection, he/ she may contact Mr. Vaibhav Mittal of Supertech Limited., E Square, C-2, Sector 96, Noida, within 15 days of the publication of this notice.

Sujata Zutshi, W/o Late Shri Ajay Kumar Bamzai

UNIDENTIFIED DEAD BODY

Kamlesh

General Public is hereby informed that one male **Namely: Kamlesh (As per Tattoo of "Kamlesh" on Right hand), S/o: Unknown, Address: Unknown,** was found dead underpass near Railway Yamuna Bazar, opposite Hanuman Mandir, Delhi on **19.07.2021.** In this regard a case has been lodged vide **DD No. 66-A U/s 174 Cr.PC, dated 19.07.2021** at P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi. The description of the dead male is as under:- **Age:** Approx 22-24 years, **Sex:** Male, **Height:** 5'10", **Complexion:** Wheatish, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **ID Mark:** Tattoo of Kamlesh on right hand , **Wearing:** Blue colour blanket and pant. If any one having any information about this dead male please inform undersigned.

SHO
P.S. Kashmere Gate, Delhi
Ph.: 011-23967889, 8750870123

DP/1365/N/2021

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY
KANKE, RANCHI-834006, JHARKHAND
WALK IN INTERVIEW

It is proposed to fill up the following posts at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, on contract basis for a period of one year or till the post is filled up on regular basis whichever is earlier. Accordingly, applications are invited from the desirous candidates. Applications on plain paper either typed or handwritten in the prescribed format along with bio-data, passport size photograph, photocopy of the certificates of age proof, educational qualification, experience etc., may be submitted to the undersigned before **16.08.2021**. After submission of application, candidates have to turn up along with their original certificates at 9.30 A.M. on the date of interview. No interview letter will be issued separately. Experience in private sector may also be considered.

The interview shall be held at Central Institute of Psychiatry, Kanke, Ranchi-834006, Jharkhand, on 17.08.2021 at 11.00 a.m.

Sl. No.	Name of post	Consolidated pay per month	No. of post
1.	Sr. Library and Information Assistant	Rs. 43500.00	1 (UR)
2.	Medical Record Officer	Rs. 43500.00	1 (UR)
3.	Library Clerk	Rs. 24300.00	1 (UR)
4.	Medical Record Clerk	Rs. 24300.00	1 (UR)

Details of qualification of the above posts are available on our website **www.cipranchi.nic.in**

Sd/- Director

Public Notice

General Public is hereby informed that my trust Little India Foundation Regd. Head Registration number: 1537. H. No.220 EA Block, Maya Enclave, Hari Nagar New Delhi – 110064. Trust has no relation what-so-ever with any other Society, trust, LLP, Private Limited, or any artificial judicial person with the same name & it has no other affiliates under the same name. Any person dealing with above trust will do so at his/her/their own risk and responsibilities. The trust will not be responsible for any act, deed or dealing done by other society, trust, LLP, Private Limited or artificial judicial person having name resembling Little India Foundation.

Trustee
Suman Arya

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Veero Rani is the owner of Property No. 8, area 100 sq., Yds., Khasra No. 20/23/1 & 20/22, Village Matiala, Uttam Nagar Extn, Part III, Jain Colony T Extn., Part III, Uttam Nagar, New Delhi "**Said Property**" by virtue of Sale Deed dated 26.08.2015, Registration No. 14061. All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the **Built up Second Floor, Back Side, without roof rights of the Said property** to someone who wants to purchase the same by taking Home loan from our client Fullerton India Home Finance Ltd. If anybody has any objections upon the said property, and its ownership / its Title / Mortgage, Sale, Etc. the kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, IInd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph : 011-41112527-28 kumarassociates.advocate@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the General Public that Mrs. Satpal Kaur is the owner of Property No. H-96, and also known as WZ-102, area 200 Sq.yds., Khasra No. 9/15, Village Chaukhandi Sant Nagar Extn, New Delhi "**Said Property**" by virtue of Sale Deed dated 10.05.2019, registration No. 5306, All persons are hereby informed that above mentioned owner wants to sell the **Built up First Floor, without roof rights of the Said property** to someone who wants to purchase the same by taking Home loan from our client Fullerton India Home Finance Ltd. Further, death certificate of Mrs. Manohar Kaur & Mr. Tejinder Singh & SMC certificates in favour the / legal heirs are missing, if anybody has any objections upon the said property, and its ownership / its Title / Mortgage, Sale, Etc. the kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 07 days of the present.

Kumar & Associates (Advocates & Consultants)
200, IInd Floor, 23, Shivaji Marg, Moti Nagar, N. Delhi-15
Ph : 011-41112527-28 kumarassociates.advocate@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SHARE CERTIFICATE NO. 467 FOR 780 EQUITY SHARES OF RS. 01 (ONE RUPEES ONLY) EACH BEARING DISTINCTIVE NOS 156814245 TO 156815024 OF KAJARIA CERAMICS LTD REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF SUNIL VERMA HAVE BEEN LOST. I SUNIL VERMA HAVE APPLIED TO THE COMPANY TO ISSUE DUPLICATE CERTIFICATE. ANY PERSON WHO HAS ANY CLAIM IN RESPECT OF THE SAID SHARES CERTIFICATE SHOULD LODGE SUCH CLAIM WITH THE COMPANY WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE THIS NOTICE, AFTER WHICH NO CLAIM WILL BE ENTERTAINED AND THE COMPANY WILL PROCEED TO ISSUE DUPLICATE SHARE CERTIFICATE.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SHARE CERTIFICATE NO. 918 FOR 480 EQUITY SHARES OF RS. 01 (ONE RUPEES ONLY) EACH BEARING DISTINCTIVE NOS 157323345 TO 157324224 OF KAJARIA CERAMICS LTD REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF SUNIL VERMA HAVE BEEN LOST. I SUNIL VERMA HAVE APPLIED TO THE COMPANY TO ISSUE DUPLICATE CERTIFICATE. ANY PERSON WHO HAS ANY CLAIM IN RESPECT OF THE SAID SHARES CERTIFICATE SHOULD LODGE SUCH CLAIM WITH THE COMPANY WITHIN 15 DAYS OF THE PUBLICATION OF THE THIS NOTICE, AFTER WHICH NO CLAIM WILL BE ENTERTAINED AND THE COMPANY WILL PROCEED TO ISSUE DUPLICATE SHARE CERTIFICATE.

LOST AND FOUND

I Lokesh Pathak D/o Shailendra Kumar Pathak R/o 248, Sector - 34, Nar Vihar - II, Noida GB Nagar (U.P) 201301
Have lost original allotment letter, & possession letter, original lease deed & all original 1st party documents of Add. E-58, Sector - 9, Noida.

Any finding please contact us:
Lokesh Pathak #9811372004

SEARCH FOR KIDNAPPED

Sabbir Ahmed

General Public is hereby informed that one boy namely **Sabbir Ahmed S/o Azad Kuresh R/o** H.No. 59, Bagichi Bhargav Lane Bulward Road Civil Lines, Delhi has been kidnapped from PS Civil Lines, Delhi since 14.07.2021 In this regard a **FIR No. 264/21 U/s 363/IPC dated 16.07.2021** has been lodged at PS, Civil Lines, Delhi. The description of missing boy is as under:

Name : Sabbir Ahmed, **Father's Name :** Azad Kuresh, **Age :** 16 years, **Height** : 5'0", **Face** : Round, **Complexion** : Shallow, **Built** : Medium, **Wearing:** Black Jans Pant and Orange Colour T-Shirt and Chappal in feet.

If anyone having any clue/information, kindly inform the undersigned.

Website : http://cbi.nic.in
e-mail : cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-23014046 (Direct)
23015229 & 23015218 Extn.-210
Fax: 011-23011334

SHO
P.S., Civil Lines, Delhi
Ph. : 011-23815444
8750870127

DP/1351/N/2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING GIRL

General public is hereby informed that this girl **Name:** Sukanya Kumari @ Kajal, **D/o** Sh. Sunil Gupta, R/o H. No. 51A, Gali No. 1/2, OM Nagar, Badarpur, New Delhi, **Age:** 19 Years, **Height:** 5 Feet, **Complexion:** Fair, **Face:** Long, **Built:** Thin, **Wearing:** Suit and Blue Jeans, has been missing since 06.07.2021 from her house in the area of PS. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi.

In this regard a DD No. 35A, dated 06.07.2021 has been lodged at P.S. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this 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.

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

SHO
P.S. Ambedkar Nagar, New Delhi
Ph.: 011-29052304, 8750870832

DP/595/SD/2021

BEFORE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-II, DELHI
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001

O.A. No.601/19 **Date: 23.07.2021**
UCO BANK ..... **Applicant**
Versus
MRS. KAVITA SHARMA & ANR. ..... **Respondent**

To,
DEFENDANT

1. **Mrs. Kavita Sharma W/o. Sh. Manoj Sharma.**
   R/o. House No.C-4/249, C- Block, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-53.
   Also at: House No.112, Gali No.3, Back Side Biharipur Opp. CRPF Camp, Delhi-110094.
2. **Mr. Manoj Kumar S/o. Mahender Sharma**
   R/o. House No.C-4/249, C-Block, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi-53
   Also at: M/s. Drishiti Trading
   F-6, Basement Gali No.1, Khajoori Khas, Delhi-110094.

Whereas the above named applicant(s) has/have instituted a case for recovery of **Rs.42,68,644/- (Rupees Forty Two Lakhs Sixty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Forty Four Only)** against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in the ordinary way therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance in the Tribunal on **16.09.2021 at 10:30 A.M.**

Take notice that in default of your appearance on the day before the mentioned, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

SEAL OF COURT

BY ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL,
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR, DRT-II, DELHI

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS
E-TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice No.: PCMM/CLW/ Dankuni/E-Procurement/ 21-22/24 Dated:22-07-2021. PCMM/CLW/DKAE on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the followings. The following E-Tender/s is/are for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive. The Prospective/ likely suppliers are requested to look up the website **www.ireps.gov.in.** These are E-Tenders; only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. For detailed instructions please refer to website:- **Sl.; Tender No.; Description of Stores; Qty.; Due On; Tender Cost : [98]; 34212514;** 1) SET OF WIRE WOUND RESISTANCE FOR PANEL to CLW SPECN. NO. CLW/ES/3/0014/G or latest. [Set details attached]. 2) RESISTOR TO PRIMARY CURRENT TRANSFORMER FOR NON PANEL to CLW SPECN. NO. CLW/ES/3/ 0014/G or latest. [Set details attached]; **As Per Tender Doc.; 20.08.21;** 0.00. **[99]; 34212585;** 1) CATENARY VOLTMETER TO CLW SPECN. NO.CLW/ES/3/0070 or latest. 2) VOLTMETER BATTERY TO CLW SPECN.NO. CLW/ES/3/0073 or latest;**As Per Tender Doc.; 20.08.21;** 0.00. **[100]; 34212706;** 1) AUXILIARY COMPRESSOR HOSE FOR WAG-9/WAP-7/WAP-5 AS PER SPEC NO./DRG.NO. CLW/ES/3/0309/D or Latest. 2) SET OF METALLIC HOSE FOR WAG-9/WAP-7 AS PER SPEC No. CLW/ES/3/0309/D or Latest; **As Per Tender Doc.; 25.08.21;** 0.00. **[101]; 34212675;** 1) SET OF BUS BAR AND ACCESSORIES FOR WAG-9 LOCOS (PANEL SECTION) TO CLW Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0118M. 2) SET OF BUS BAR AND ACCESSORIES FOR WAG-9 LOCOS (CONNECTION SECTION) TO CLW SPECN. NO. CLW/ES/3/ 0118/M; **As Per Tender Doc.; 26.08.21;** 0.00. **[102]; 34212749A;** CKT.BREAKER WITHOUT AUXILIARY CONTACTS TYPE-8 TO CLWS SPECN.NO.CLW/ES/3/0050 Alt-C or Latest; **As Per Tender Doc.; 30.08.21;** 0.00. **[103]; 30212964;** Shielding (ARGOSHIELD-51) GAS FOR MIG WELDING (ARGON-81.5%,CO2-16%,OXYGEN-2.5%). HSN CODE-28042100; **As Per Tender Doc.; 31.08.21;** 0.00.

PR6-156 **Principal Chief Materials, Manager CLW, Dankuni**

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SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.
(Erstwhile Small Business Fincredit India Pvt. Ltd.)

Address Unit No. 103, First Floor C&B Square, Sangam Complex, 127, Andheri-Kurla Road, Village Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400059 | Telephone: +91 22 67875300 | Fax: +91 22 67875334 | www.sbfc.com|
Corporate Identity Number: U67190MH2008PTC178270

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the Public that Auction of pledged Gold Ornaments will be conducted by SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd. on **30th July' 2021 or thereafter** at 10 AM at O – 7, 1 st Floor, 'above Look Sal on , Lajpat Nagar 2, New Delhi-110024,Faridabad branch D-2, First Floor,N.I.T,Near 1-2 Chowk , Faridabad, Haryana- 121001 and Gurugram branch First Floor, Property No. 342/9, Subhash Nagar, 1 st Floor,New Railway Road,Gurugram-122001, Ghaziabad - 2B RDC Raj Nagar Ghaziabad Near SBI branch, Hapur - First floor, above P C Jeweller, garh pargana pakka bagh ,garh road hapur-245101

The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Loan Accounts of our various Customers who have failed to pay their dues. Our notices of auction have been duly issued to these borrowers.

The Gold Ornaments to be auctioned belong to Overdue Loan Accounts of our various Customers mentioned below with branch name.

Faridabad Branch: PR00873580/117101186, PR00849222/117100932, PR00836224/117100722, PR00778359/117100101, PR00874287/117101196, PR00849269/117100934, PR00836730/117100728, PR00778783/117100106, PR00874031/117101191, PR00850123/117100947, PR00837404/117100737, PR00787102/117100179, PR00874993/117101205, PR00851022/117100953, PR00837383/117100736, PR00787910/117100206, PR00874782/117101202, PR00850831/117100952, PR00838773/117100753, PR00788056/117100207, PR00874710/117101199, PR00858768/117101033, PR00838636/117100751, PR00789956/117100230, PR00875982/117101208, PR00860727/117101050, PR00839937/117100763, PR00790430/117100234, PR00875986/117101209, PR00862404/117101067, PR00845660/117100852, PR00790921/117100241, PR00876316/117101212, PR00862500/117101069, PR00845862/117100856, PR00790981/117100243, PR00876265/117101210, PR00862727/117101079, PR00846193/117100863, PR00799526/117100336, PR00882844/117101269, PR00863158/117101084, PR00846340/117100868, PR00800069/117100343, PR00883875/117101279, PR00863168/117101085, PR00846371/117100869, PR00802278/117100366, PR00883911/117101280, PR00862884/117101082, PR00846391/117100871, PR00812132/117100441, PR00884106/117101283, PR00863337/117101088, PR00846653/117100875, PR00812117/117100440, PR00886011/117101296, PR00863363/117101091, PR00846848/117100881, PR00814781/117100469, PR00888483/117101314, PR00863777/117101095, PR00846914/117100884, PR00814846/117100471, PR00888510/117101315, PR00863824/117101096, PR00846729/117100877, PR00816810/117100497, PR00809709/117100422, PR00863851/117101097, PR00846698/117100876, PR00823588/117100565, PR00834155/117100693, PR00863882/117101098, PR00847354/117100895, PR00825685/117100594, PR00829048/117100632, PR00871138/117101162, PR00847319/117100893, PR00826033/117100598, PR00833680/117100686, PR00872667/117101176, PR00847361/117100896, PR00827119/117100612, PR00827172/117100614, PR00847796/117100905, PR00847466/117100898,

Ghaziabad branch, PR00872645/9631000230, PR00850916/9631000076, PR00837080/9631000011, PR00835988/9631000006, PR00874630/9631000239, PR00871473/9631000221, PR00846364/9631000058,

Gurugram branch, PR00802142/67100374, PR00877711/67101350, PR00873612/67101238, PR00834939/67100736, PR00806955/67100431, PR00796569/67100296, PR00874773/67101255, PR00846259/67100875, PR00809034/67100449, PR00799683/67100337, PR00875411/67101257, PR00848575/67100898, PR00864295/67101112, PR00860312/67101057, PR00848985/67100908, Lajpat Nagar branch, PR00824437/43100360, PR00888449/43100606, PR00834464/43100225, PR00803392/43100222, PR00803508/43100226, Laxmi Nagar branch, PR00830780/49100446, PR00796448/49100214, PR00850259/49100538, PR00805258/49100283, PR00831289/49100450, PR00806486/49100292, PR00863527/49100598, PR00812920/49100342, PR00849886/49100536, PR00849845/49100535, PR00834480/49100461, PR00823529/49100413, Noida branch, PR00874730/1008100150, PR00874855/1008100152, PR00849989/1008100020, PR00846527/1008100001, Rohini branch, PR00874654/65101190, PR00834134/65100843, PR00861679/65101108, PR00769519/41100072, PR00886455/65101224, PR00836037/41100411, PR00862432/65101115, PR00771527/41100093, PR00800945/65100501, PR00839126/65100875, PR00864356/65101123, PR00782706/41100185, PR00802292/65100517, PR00846368/65100949, PR00864349/65101122, PR00788674/41100252, PR00819997/65100716, PR00846386/65100951, PR00871949/65101168, PR00790571/65100357, PR00821533/41100394, PR00860985/65101100, PR00872548/65101177, PR00791771/65100388, PR00832351/65100831, PR00861035/65101104, PR00873581/65101182, PR00792264/65100392, PR00823463/65100751, PR00804350/41100340, PR00816741/65100673, PR00799533/65100482, PR00823748/65100754, Tughlakabad branch, PR00871315/73100982, PR00828551/73100601, PR00860605/73100890, PR00792126/73100341, PR00888461/73101073, PR00859080/73100876, PR00864096/73100918, PR00813323/73100497, PR00871519/73100527, PR00825573/73100579, PR00822778/73100562.

For more details, please contact
SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd.
(Erstwhile Small Business Fincredit India Pvt. Ltd.
Contact Number(s): Lajpat Nagar 1800-102-8012 / 011- 40305228 / 207, Faridabad: 01294314725/4104450 and Gurgaon Branch 0124-4276037, Ghaziabad branch - 8826084221, Hapur branch - 9555688622
(SBFC Finance Pvt. Ltd. (Erstwhile Small Business Fincredit India Pvt. Ltd.) reserves the right to alter the number of accounts to be auctioned &/ postpone / cancel the auction without any prior notice.)

Chola Enter a better life

Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited
Corporate Office: 1st Floor, 'Dare House', No.2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Chennai-600 001
Branch Office: 1st & 2nd Floor, Plot No.6, Main Pusa Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi - 110 005.

POSSESSION NOTICE - Under Rule 8 (1)

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

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrowers in particular and the Public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the properties mortgaged with the Company described in Column [E] herein below on the respective dates mentioned in Column [F] in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13[4] of the Act read with Rule 9 of the Rules made there under.

The borrowers in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned in Column[E] below and any such dealings will be subject to the charge of **M/s. Cholamandalam Investment And Finance Company Limited** for an amount mentioned in Column [D] along with interest and other charges.

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

SR. NO	NAME AND ADDRESS OF BORROWER & LOAN ACCOUNT NUMBER	DATE OF DEMAND NOTICE	OUTSTANDING AMOUNT	DETAILS OF PROPERTY POSSESSED	DATE OF PHYSICAL POSSESSION
A	B	C	D	E	F
1.	Loan Nos. **X0HEDHE00001114607 & X0HEDHE00001287153** **1. RAGHVENDRA SINGH 2. GEETA SINGH** WZ-267, 2nd FLOOR, JAIL ROAD, NANGAL RAYA, NEW DELHI-110046. Also at:- **RAGHVENDRA SINGH** **M/s. RADIANT MODEL SCHOOL** WZ-267, 2nd FLOOR, JAIL ROAD, NANGAL RAYA, NEW DELHI-110046.	17/12/2016	Rs. 1,87,02,514.27/- as on 15/12/2016	First and Second Floor of Property No.WZ-267, Portion area 300.83 Sq. yards out of Khasra No. 498/444/171 & 497/43/171/7, situated in nangal Raya New Delhi-110046.	23-07-2021

Date : 23-07-2021
Place: Delhi.

sd- Authorized Officer
CHOLAMANDALAM INVESTMENT AND FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

Up your skills

The importance of making a conscious learning effort to possess the right attitude, upskilling to tap industry demand and re-skilling further to stay relevant in the job is immense, says DIYA JAIN

The strain of COVID-19 has impacted our lifestyle in many ways — learning, working, and traveling have all been hindered. As the promise of a swift recovery wanes, most institutions across India are adopting an online mode of teaching. Most workplaces continue to employ phygital models of working, whereas some organisations have allowed their employees to work remotely. It would be an understatement to say that the pandemic has changed how academia and businesses operate!

Amidst all this doom and gloom, let's focus on the bright side. Technology is constantly evolving and automation is catching up in most of the industries across the globe. On one hand, the vaccination drive is gaining momentum, on the other, the infection positivity rate is going down drastically.

India still has one of the youngest populations in the world, putting it in a unique sweet spot wherein the working-age population is more than non-working age. Leveraging the demographic dividend and adoption of digital technologies has put us in a prime position to embark on a journey of rapid growth.

As more and more students join the workforce, the one question that threatens to derail us from our journey is "Are India's graduates employable?" "Do they have the relevant skills required by the industry?"

Traditionally, educational institutions have laid greater emphasis on the academic and theoretical development of students, leaving a long-lasting effect in terms of a lack of development of employable skills including core technical skills, communication skills, and other workplace skills.

Graduate-level curriculum in India, in particular, does not emphasize on behavioural and soft skills. A graduate who has finished his/her course and may have secured an excellent academic rank might still lack oratory skills, knack for presentation, motivation, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills.

This has also been highlighted in the India Skills 2021 report published by Wheebox in association with CII. As per the report, only 45.9 per cent of graduates in India are found unemployable.

Having the right mix of hard and soft skills is important for a successful career. Today, employers value attributes such as integrity, reliability, teamwork, and a positive attitude as much as core technical skills in candidates. In most organisations, the responsibilities and KPIs defined for job roles, require an employee to work with different stakeholders across functions. While many of these skills are learned on the job, there are certain skills everyone should learn before starting their careers.

Investing in continuous learning and upskilling is essential for one to be productive, innovative, and marketable in today's recessionary job market.

The importance of making a conscious learning effort to possess the right attitude, upskilling to tap industry demand, and re-skilling further to stay relevant in the job is immense, given further the demand-supply mismatch. In India, the number of students applying for a job out-weighs the number of open positions by a factor of 10x.

> HAVING THE RIGHT MIX OF HARD AND SOFT SKILLS IS IMPORTANT FOR A SUCCESSFUL CAREER. TODAY, EMPLOYERS VALUE ATTRIBUTES LIKE INTEGRITY, RELIABILITY, TEAMWORK AND A POSITIVE ATTITUDE AS MUCH AS CORE TECHNICAL SKILLS IN CANDIDATES

Upskilling to differentiate yourself from your peers is as necessary for sustenance as securing basic education qualifications and degrees, if not more.

One may then wonder, how to evaluate one's own skills and know what is required by the recruiters. Are there some easy ways to do it?

One way to find one's level of employability skills is by taking the job fitment and aptitude tests available on the internet. Most of these good assessments give you a detailed report of your skill index and areas of improvement, if one selects the answers honestly. These self-assessments help the test taker in making an informed decision about the right career path she/he wants to pursue. A well-structured job-fitment test acts as a career guidance and provides insights to the test takers about their strengths and unique skill sets.

Another way is to study the job descriptions available on job portals. A well-defined job description lists the knowledge, skills, and attributes required to perform the job. Find the job description of the role one wants to take up, make a list of topics, skills, and attributes required and then analyse where one stands. This will help the students to focus on the skills and attributes they need to work on.

So, what do the students need to do to upskill and re-skill in order to stay ahead in the race?

First, try to find the area of interest and find out the niche in which one wants to make a career. Second, join several online industry-oriented certificate courses to learn the latest technologies and industry best practices. Thirdly, apply for internships in companies that are in the industry where you finally want to land up. Fourth, make a good LinkedIn profile, connect with industry practitioners, follow the best minds in the industry, watch out for what they are talking about, participate in online discussions, and write articles and post them. Fifth, subscribe to podcasts, vodcasts, newsletters, to stay updated about the industry and professions, and finally, find a good mentor who can guide you throughout your career.

Once you start working, make sure you don't lose out on learning. As you spend more time in the role, you start realising what skills, knowledge and attributes are required to grow in that path.

At that junction, make a list of additional skills you need to build yourself, and work on them consciously. Join training programs available in your company, and focus on gaining skills for particular job functions or roles. These programmes within the companies have well-defined learning outcomes to be achieved in a specified time period, and are designed to give the trainees a head start in their job profiles.

The writer is founder, Safejob

QUOTE OF THE DAY

Aim for success, not perfection. Never give up your right to be wrong, because then you will lose the ability to learn new things and move forward with your life. Remember that fear always lurks behind perfectionism.
— Dr David M Burns

DIPLOMA, UG & PG COURSES

Sanskriti University, Mathura invites online applications for admission to diploma, under graduate, and post graduate programmes in Engineering, Management & Commerce, Education, Special Education, Humanities & Social Sciences, Pharmacy, Agriculture, Fashion Designing, Law and Legal Studies, Yoga and Naturopathy, Tourism & Hotel Management, Medical & Allied Sciences, Basic & Applied Sciences, Ayurveda, Unani, and Nursing courses.

Eligibility: Applications are open to applicants who have passed or will appear for the qualifying examinations under the higher secondary (Class XII) from any recognised Board of Education such as AISSCE/IB/ICSE/CBSE, or equivalents. For Admission to diploma programmes, Students are required to have passed the Class X examination from any state or central board like CBSE/ICSE.

How to apply: Applicants seeking admission are required to fill an online application form available onwww.sanskriti.edu.in. The submission of the Application Form can be done online or in-person at the University by depositing ₹1000. For online submission, visit thislink: *https://www.sanskriti.edu.in/register.* The admission prerequisites will be in accordance with the various regulatory bodies as amended from time to time.

Last date to apply: July 31, 2021.

BSC & MSC COURSES

Lakshya Bhartee Institute of International Hotel management, Delhi invites applications for admission to its three years BSc programme in Hotel management and two years MSc programme in Hotel management.

Eligibility: For BSc in HM applicants must have passed Class XII from a recognised central/ state board or from a recognised university and for MSc in HM Applicants must completed graduation from a recognised university.

How to Apply: Admission forms can be purchased from admission office of LBIIHM, Pitampura, Delhi or can apply online by visit *www.lbiihm.com.*

Last date to apply: July 30, 2021.

CERTIFICATE COURSE

Delhi College of fire and safety Engineering invites applications for admissions to its one year certificate course in Fire Technology & Industrial Safety Management, one year six months course in health safety environment and six month certificate course in fire fighting.

The study of this programme is incorporated to train candidates to gain knowledge about the preventive measures to be applied during times of emergency.

Eligibility: This full time diploma course has been thoughtfully designed for those who have recently passed Class X or Class XII from any recognised board and want to work in fire & Safety management industry can enroll for these courses.

How to apply: To apply please visit *www.dcfse.com* or the application forms brochure may be obtained from admission office of Delhi College of fire and safety Engineering, Mundka, New delhi-110041.

Last date to apply: July 30, 2021.

Trip to a foreign land

Studying abroad can be an expensive affair. SUMEET JAIN lists ways how students can manage to live this dream

Studying in a great university abroad is no longer just a fad, or something reserved for those with deep pockets. Thanks to the growing appeal of a global career and lifestyle, the increased spending power of the middle class and the boom in student financing options.

The pandemic doesn't seem to have slowed India from becoming the second largest country to send international students to various countries abroad. According to a release by Common App in January 2020, the number of international student applicants were up by 10 per cent (of which Indian applicants were up by 28 per cent) as compared to 2019-2020 levels.

So how are all these students funding their study abroad dream? Between tuition fees, accommodation, living and travel expenses, the whole thing can be twice as expensive as planning an Indian wedding!

Self-financing: According to opendoorsdata.org, more than 85 per cent of the total international students choose to bootstrap their education abroad. Some students choose to dip into family savings and assets to fund their education, at least partially and cover the rest through scholarships and part-time work. But this leaves the whole family at risk without a Plan B.

Secured/collateral-based education loan: Many banks, both public and private, and NBFCs offer education loans against a collateral of a certain value like a house/land etc. This is a systematic and structured approach and has many advantages such as tax saving benefits. The loan repayment usually kicks in six months after the degree is completed, irrespective of whether you have a job or not, and must be completed within seven years of finishing the degree. So, this is a factor that students must consider before signing up for one.

The difference between banks and NBFCs is that banks usually cover about 85-90 per cent of expenses such as tuition fees, lodging, travel, lab fees etc, whereas NBFCs offer 100 per cent Cost of Attendance (CoA) coverage. Similarly, banks may also have an upper limit on the sanctioned loan amount for large amounts such as over ₹20-₹30 lakh, depending on the course and university you select. NBFCs have no such cap on loan amount. However, banks may also offer concessions on interest rates for women, which NBFCs don't.

Unsecured/collateral-free education loan: Another option is to opt for unsecured education loans offered by many financial institutions that require no collateral. This is given based on your financial status, for example, your credit score. However, since this is riskier to the lender, it may be more tedious and expensive as you may be charged a higher interest rate for the same loan amount. Students may also not get any favourable repayment terms for the same reason. Many banks and NBFCs require you to pay interest while you study.

International financial institutions: A trending option among students is educational loans from international financial institutions. They may provide loan amounts in foreign currency with or without a cosigner/collateral. They calculate interest rates based on the loan applicant's future repayment potential rather than historic data, and hence can also provide lower interest rates than banks or NBFCs.

SIP: This option depends on how early you start and is more suitable for working professionals rather than students who wish to pursue their postgraduate studies.

A systematic investment plan or a SIP is a great way to both invest and save for salaried professionals. The frequency of investment is based on the discretion of the candidate to allow them a flexible approach. SIPs have gained a lot of traction over the years in the field of financing the educational endeavours of postgraduate students.

The key to remember is that every student is different. So, it is important to weigh the pros and cons of each option before proceeding further.

The writer is Co-founder, Yocket

Social sector is dynamic

Many volunteer in the social sector, however working professionally in the same sphere is not considered viable due to myths surrounding the work, says DR GEETANJALI CHOPRA & PARUL KAMRA

When one hears of someone volunteering in the social sector, the immediate reaction is to always congratulate the individual on choosing to give back to society, on being a changemaker. However, when the same individual announces a full-time job in the social sector, this news is met with hesitation, trepidation and sometimes even rebuke and criticism. What causes this sudden change in perception, and is this shift validated?

Unfortunately, there are several myths associated with the social sector that set it in a bad light not just for donors, partner organisations but also for those looking to make a career in social work. Some of these myths are that there is no growth in this sector, it is a waste of time, there are no returns, the money is negligible and the work is dreary. However, if one does take out the time to talk to someone who has worked in this sector for a while, they are sure to get a clearer picture of what the sector actually comprises of, and what actually lies in store for those who want to enter the world of social work.

One of the prevalent assumptions is that there is no advancement in the social sector, that it is an area worth investing only a small amount of time in order to boost resumes. However, there is immense potential to develop and evolve in the social sector. It offers space to grow not just professionally but personally as well, for you get the best of both worlds- desk jobs as well as field work. Further, this sector itself is always growing, taking into account the varied requirements of beneficiaries across demographics. Since the sector itself is never stagnant, growth always accompanies it.

Several people also assume that there are no exciting opportunities available to social workers. However, the sector is extremely dynamic purely based on the fact that the work is directly related to people in need. Since humans themselves can't possibly be put into black and white categories, the work too has to adapt itself to situations and the issues it brings up. Each day brings with itself new challenges, and new opportunities to bring about change. No two days are the same while working in the social sector, making it a vibrant and lively professional sector.

What seems to be the most pressing and overarching myth related to working in the social sector is that there is no adequate recompense or rewards, that there is no money for a social worker. While it is true that most NGOs cannot offer salary brackets that are possible at a corporate job, this does not mean that the salaries are meagre. Further, International NGOs have extremely attractive pay packages, and these come with several perks as well. Depending on qualifications, the returns can be extremely rewarding. Of course, what makes the work even more fulfilling are the blessings one receives from the beneficiaries, something that no amount of money can ever give.

The social sector is as enterprising, as exciting, and as rewarding as any other professional sphere. The myths surrounding this sector are exactly that- baseless. The world is your oyster when it comes to social work. No matter how you engage with it, it always gives back multifold.

The writers are from Wishes and Blessings NGO

VIT-AP inks MoU with Entuple Technologies

The signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Entuple Technologies and the School of Electronics and Engineering, VIT-AP University was held virtually on the July 22, 2021.

Dr S V Kota Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, VIT-AP University after signing the MoU with Entuple Technologies, said their aim is to impart skill and capabilities to the students in VLSI and RF Communication technologies and enable them to build their career in this emerging field. This will also provide an opportunity to the students, scholars, and faculty members to carry out research and to develop several advanced applications using VLSI and RF Technologies.

Further, Entuple Technologies will provide internships and job opportunities to selected students.

Mehta SD D, Director-sales, Entuple Technologies said that with this collaboration can conduct free Webinar/workshop, Faculty Development Program (FDP), Short Term Training Programs (STTP), Training cum Internship Program, Career Builder Programs in association with Entuple technologies. These programs are aimed at providing industry skills in campus and boost competency and employability of students.

SRMIST students shine

Department of Physical Education and Sports Science at SRM Institue of Science and Technology (SRMIST), Kattankulathur organised the 'Volleyball Achievers Award 2021' and honoured eight of its students for getting placed in Government and private jobs. Of this, four girls have been selected to Indian Railways under the sports quota.

The chief guest for the event was SRMIST's Deputy Registrar and Director (Institute of Hotel Management) Dr Antony Ashok Kumar.

The special guests for the event were SRMIST's Director (Career Centre) N Venkata Sastry, Associate Director Campus Life & Ladies Hostel Dr E Poovammal and Managing Director Sri Vinayaga Timbers, Tambaram T Purushothaman.

Students who got placed pose with their awards along with the dignitaries of SRMIST

A documentary on the Women's Volleyball Journey 2020-21 was released on the occasion.

Volleyball women's team coach Om Prakash elaborated on how the students are trained, how their diets are monitored, their workout sessions, and so on.

T Purushothaman who has been a patron of the sports wished the team many more laurels in the upcoming tournaments.

PHARMA SHOWS THE WAY

Due to the present pandemic, there are lucrative options in the pharmaceutical industry, says PROFESSOR RANA SINGH

The present pandemic has brought the entire world to its knees and the whole world has observed the adverse catastrophe of this global pandemic. As the healthcare sector across the globe is growing, it has opened great career opportunities to thousands of students of pharmaceutical science because the rate of growth of the pharmaceutical sector is interlinked and is directly proportional to the growth of the healthcare sector.

According to IBEF, Indian pharmaceutical sector supplies over 50 per cent of global demand for various vaccines and states that we are the largest provider of generic drugs globally.

In the present scenario the demand for medicines is increasing day by day, so the employment in the pharma sector is also rising. According to sources of government statistics, over 300 institutions impart diplomas or degrees to nearly 20,000 students in India every year. Indian pharmaceutical industry is one of the largest pharma industries in the world and this widens the scope of pharma studies in India and abroad.

As per the report of Indian Economic Survey 2021, in the next decade the domestic market is expected to grow three times. The pharmaceutical industry is valued at $41.7 billion. Our domestic pharmaceutical market is estimated at $ 41 billion and likely to reach $ 65 billion by 2024.

In India, Pharmacy Council of India (PCI) is the regulatory body which has been designing the rducation Regulations pertaining to pharmacy which outlines the conditions to be followed by pharmacy colleges. The PCI grants approval to universities and colleges to run various programmes. It has well-defined standards, norms and guidelines.

As compared to other countries, the prices of medicines in India are amongst the lowest in the world. Although having some of the medicine's lowest prices in the world, leading firms of India also have the capacity to not only serve the Indian market for essential drugs but also supply their drugs to the world.

Price fluctuation and policy environment: Price fluctuation and policy environment are the challenges created by unexpected and frequent domestic pricing policy changes in India. One of the biggest challenges is analysing the shifting customer behaviour and fluctuating prices, due to this vague environment of innovations and investments has created in Industry. According to The Indian Pharmaceuticals Alliances (IPA), to produce affordable patients' drugs, the Government and stakeholders work together.

With the help of AI, companies can gather information regarding targeting audiences and create unique marketing strategies for them. This way they can understand the needs and convert leads into revenues

Paucity of proficiency in the innovation space: Due to limited government Supported research ecosystem the pharmaceutical companies have been slow to grow in the innovation space. To overcome this hurdle Government needs to invest in research and development initiatives and talent in order to expand India's innovation.

A talent pool with advanced skills is limited in India as compared to other countries. There is also a huge gap between the college curriculum and industry's requirements. Clinical trials should also be supported and subjectivity in certain regulatory decision-making removed.

Generic market exporting: Just like any other industry, the pharmaceutical industry is also a sales-driven industry. With the help of AI technology, companies can gather information regarding targeting audiences and create unique marketing strategies for them. This way they can understand the needs of the market and can convert most leads into revenues. AI can help in protecting the success or failure rate of the marketing strategy.

Effect of external market: More than 50 per cent of pharma ingredients are dependent on other countries like China. Slight changes in policies can bring a big difference in the production of medicines and equipment. Due to growth in the pharma industry in India, both directly and indirectly, Government needs to make India a life sciences innovation hub to promote innovation by creating a research ecosystem and expanding and upskill the talent pool to handle complex technologies with advanced resources.

The writer is Vice-Chancellor, Sanskriti University

Tips to crack CAT

Many engineers take the Common Admission Test each year. But they make mistakes. SUMIT SINGH GANDHI shares must-follow dos in order to ace this exam

Sumit Singh Gandhi,
CEO, CATKing Educare

The Common Admission Test (CAT) is a national-level examination conducted by The Indian Institute of Management (IIM). It is a mandatory exam for seeking admission into IIM or other prestigious B-schools. More than half of the candidates appearing for CAT have an engineering background. This makes the competition quite serious. Here are some must-follow tips for engineers.

Work hard for the VARC section: The VARC section is a big hurdle for the Engineering students as they do not focus much on the English language as a subject during their graduation. But, if studied well this section will not trouble you much.

Master the DILR section: The only way to score well in this section is to practice as much as possible. This section can be solved using various tricks which you will know when and how to apply only when you have solved enough problems. This section is quite easy once you know the techniques.

Improve your calculations: Calculations are an extremely important factor in solving both the Quantitative Ability section. Improve your accuracy and try achieving the right answers in the first attempt to save maximum time. Practice solving mentally instead of using a virtual calculator. You will see a difference in your calculations if you practice religiously.

Get a complete idea about the sections: You need to have the maximum idea about all the sections. Make sure you know everything like the number of questions in each section, marks allocated to the sections, topics covered in the sections, the marking scheme, etc. Knowing all of this will make the process ahead easier and less complex.

Avoid rote learning: Mugging up will land you in trouble. One should focus on concepts and understand them thoroughly. It is not at all advisable to choose to mug-up technique. Understanding the whole concept helps one to remember things for a longer period and on the other side mugging up never stays for a longer period.

Practice makes perfect: No matter how good or bad you are at the topics, one thing that can make you score well in CAT is practicing. You need to keep practicing the questions regularly. Buy enough practice material and make sure you solve most of it. Make sure you know most of the concepts. Practicing every day will be of extreme help. Solve all the previous years' question papers and the available sample papers. Solve mock tests to be even closer to being perfect.

Do not start preparing at the last minute: Start studying well in advance. Starting from the beginning will not pile up all the work. You can study at your own pace and understand concepts properly. This will result in having a lot of time for preparation. If you start preparing at the last moment then you will have a chance of not covering the entire syllabus. You will have to finish the entire syllabus in a few days which may result in creating confusion.

Do not prepare without a plan: You need to have a plan. You need to make a timetable of how you will be studying and how much syllabus you will complete within a day. Also, make sure you decide how much you will practice each day after finishing up with the portion. Make strategies on how you will appear for the paper. Make daily targets and work hard to complete them.

MINDIT

If you are at a stage in your career where you are feeling stagnated? Or if you feel that you are going on a journey but your ultimate destination is unknown to you? Or if you have to drag your soul to the work every day with a lot of effort? Then you could be going through a mid-career dilemma, the first thing you should do is stop worrying about it and acknowledge it, a lot of working professionals go through it and there is nothing wrong with you.

Perhaps there are certain questions in your mind related to various aspects of your life and you need to simply answer them to march ahead with confidence. Let's look at the top 5 reasons why working professionals go through mid-career dilemmas?

■ Am I in the right job? Am I missing something? One of the most common puzzles that working professionals have in their mind is I in the right job? Am I am missing something? Though there is no perfect answer to this question not answering this question at all often leads to a mid-career dilemma.

■ The fear of missing out or FOMO refers to the feeling or perception that others are having more fun, living better lives, or experiencing better things than you are. It affects self-image; self-esteem and leads to feelings of restlessness, false comparison, and anxiety. What we see of others in social media may also one of the reasons why people often feel fear of missing out and it could be one of the reasons that lead to mid-career crisis.

■ Downplaying own skills, knowledge and competence: In order to achieve the best result in the shortest span of time a lot of working professionals start copying and focusing on what skills, knowledge and competence they do not have and start acquiring those without realising that in the process they are downplaying their own skills, knowledge and competence and by the time they realize that they have not used their own capabilities the opportunities which in front of them vanish and they are not able to course correct at the right time. This could be one of the main reasons that lead to a mid-career crisis.

■ Self-confidence has taken a hit: Self-confidence is one of the most vulnerable elements of any individuals, life and it can often get a blow due to various reasons such as making mistakes, not able to cope with the new manager, peer pressure, work environment or due to a change in the job expectation. Lack or drop in self-confidence for a long period of time creates doubts both various aspects and it could be one of the key factors that lead towards the midcareer dilemma.

■ Fear of humiliation among more successful colleagues: Each and every working professional wants to be successful in life and they strive for success each day of their life; similarly, each organization has a very defined framework to judge the individuals based on the performance and behavioral competencies required.

A few are able to score well on those parameters and move ahead in the career while other stays at the same point and due to lack of reasoning and explanation are given to the individuals who have not been able to score well around those parameters a lot of doubts get created in their mind and this often leads to a feeling of humiliation and ultimately becomes one of the key contributors that causes a mid-career dilemma.

Mid-career dilemma is a very common point that can come to a professional's life at any stage after working for three-five years in a professional environment but it is important to understand the key reason that is leading towards the mid-career dilemma.

The writer is Abhishek Joshhi, Executive Coach, Learning and Development Expert

The Griffith University is offering RTP International Fee Offset Scholarships for international students. Scholarships fully cover the HDR me tuition fees.

Eligibility: Applicant must: Not be a domestic student, as defined as being a student who is an Australian citizen or an Australian permanent resident or holder of an Australian Permanent Humanitarian visa or a New Zealand citizen and be commencing or enrolled in HDR programme. Not be awarded to a candidate who is in receipt of an equivalent award or scholarship from the Commonwealth Government designed to offset HDR programme tuition fees.

Admission requirement: Must have previous degree.

Language requirement: Applicants whose first language is not English are usually required to provide evidence of proficiency in English at the higher level required by the University.

How to apply: New applicants must follow the process for submitting an online application. Visit: *https://www.griffith.edu.au/research-study/apply*

Application deadline: The last date to apply for this is September 28, 2021.

Applications are invited for the need-based aid offered by the Case Western Reserve University for international students for the academic year 2021-2022.

Eligibility: Applicants can apply to study any bachelor or master degree programme offered at Case. Applicants must meet all the following/given criteria: Be international first-year or transfer students enrolled in a programme at Case.

Supporting documents: The students are required to present the following documents to the university:

High school results
Admission essay

Admission requirements: The applicants must have completed high school graduation to be accepted in any programme at Case.

Language requirement: The applicants are required to attain minimum scores in English language proficiency tests.

How to apply: The students are required to submit their application via the Common Application or Coalition Application. The applicants are required to have set up a CSS profile and apply for the opportunity through the same.

Application deadline: The last date to apply for this scholarship is November 30, 2021.

WEB DEVELOPMENT AT SHINE CONSULTANTS
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/4a5260
Deadline: August 5, 2021

HR AT KATMUNY TECHNOLOGIES
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000-₹12,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/a2cfd5
Deadline: August 5, 2021

CONTENT WRITING AT VEGA SCHOOLS
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/a26477
Deadline: August 5, 2021

UI/UX DESIGN AT CETAS IT
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹15,000-₹20,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/76af51
Deadline: August 5, 2021

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (SALES) AT STUFIT APPROACH
Location: Lucknow, Gurgaon, Pune, Mumbai, Noida, Delhi
Stipend: ₹2,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/dcac98
Deadline: August 5, 2021

FRESHER JOBS

ASSOCIATE RECRUITER AT TALHIVE
Location: Remote
Stipend: ₹3-₹5 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/d5dd34
Deadline: August 21, 2021
Skill(s): MS-Office, Word & Excel, Recruitment,, Client Relationship, English (Spoken & Written)

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT EXECUTIVE AT CAFE TATVA VENTURES
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹3-₹5.5 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/811aca
Deadline: August 21, 2021
Skill(s): Salesforce, Client Interaction, MS-Excel, Client Relationship

INBRIEF

ONLINE MBA DEGREE PROGRAMME

The Jaro Education has announced the collaboration with Dr DY Patil Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) Centre of Online Learning (DPU COL) to offer a next-generation online MBA degree programme. The UGC approved degree is designed to help participants to develop future-focused competencies, which employers across the globe look for in potential candidates.

The course is designed to equip participants with leadership skills, global awareness and critical and analytical thinking. The two-year programme is curated for working professionals and will follow a credit system as recommended by UGC.

The pedagogy consists of assignments, formative and summative assessment tests, compulsory domain, generic core courses, specialisation and generic elective courses, project work, and much more.

Following are specialisations:

■ Marketing Management
■ Human Resource Management (HRM)
■ Finance Management
■ IT Management (ITM)
■ Project Management
■ Operations Management
■ Hospital Administration and Health Care Management
■ International Business Management

FREE MASTERCLASSES FOR TEACHERS

To support skill development of the educators of the country especially during such dire times, Aditya Birla Education Academy (ABEA) has been offering free Masterclasses and Educator Meetup sessions for teachers for the last 15 months. This initiative started in April 2020 when teachers were grappling with strategies and tools to teach online.

NEW BTECH COURSE ON OFFER

The Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur, is offering unique BTech programmes with multi-disciplinary breadth aligned with the emerging technology trends. With design thinking and social connect embedded into the curriculum, these programs target to produce 'global engineers' who will be technology leaders and innovators with empathy and sensitivity for sustainable development. Entrepreneurship education has also been introduced offering an enriching experience in innovation, prototyping, business model formulation and market analysis.

THIRD SLOT OF NRA CET BASED SCHOLARSHIP TEST

The upGrad Jeet has announced the third slot of NRA CET based scholarship test for aspirants who are planning to appear for the yearly competitive exams and secure jobs in the Government sector. The first two slots have been conducted this year. The decision to introduce another slot was inspired by the massive response to the first two slots.

JeetCET: NRA CET based scholarship test, is an attempt to estimate the expected test pattern and syllabus to give aspirants a direction to prepare better.

Divided into two rounds, learners from the Preliminary round will then appear for Round 2, called the Mains, after which only 3000 learners will be able to make their way to receiving a six-month subscription of the course for free, while others will receive a 1-month subscription to the NRA CET course. upGrad Jeet has also announced a range of rewards and scholarships amounting to ₹151 crore to acknowledge the hard work of learners, based on the overall potential they demonstrate during the test.

ANALYSIS FOUND A CARBON RISK PREMIUM

A new mathematical analysis conducted by researchers from Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati (IITG) and IIM Bangalore has established a relationship between the carbon footprint of companies and the potential risks of investing in these firms.

An extensive data analysis of over 200 of the largest listed companies in the American market was carried out by the researchers from these top Institutions.

The researchers found that most of these companies (71.6%) had shown a decrease in their carbon emissions in the 2016-2019 period. It was found that carbon footprint had a positive correlation with the size of the companies and the revenues. However, the correlation with expenses was found to be slightly less than that with revenue.

VMC LAUNCHES TWO UNIQUE TESTS

It is imperative to say that choosing the right stream and career has always been a tough task and around 85 per cent of students find it extremely difficult to take the right decision. In an effort to inflate its endeavor of learning and encouraging students to achieve their dreams, Vidyamandir Classes (VMC) in association with Mindler has come up with two new and innovative tests named VMC Disha and VMC Vision.

VMC Disha (Stream Selector) and Vision (Career Discovery) are important initiatives taken by VMC in pursuant to strengthening the school outreach programmes.

These stream and career deciding tests are especially customised for students ranging from classes VIII to XII. While VMC Vision is specially designed for science students of class Class XI and Class XII to make them realise the ideal match for their careers, VMC Disha is customised for students of class VIII, IX and X in order to make the process of stream selection scientific and accurate for them.

VMC Disha and VMC Vision developed by the industry experts who have been in the field of education since decades, the exemplary tests are based on a Model accredited by the National Career Development Association and the Career Development Alliance, USA.

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- **Hockey:** India beat Spain 3-0 in Men's Pool A Match.
- **Badminton:** Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty beat Ben Lane and Sean Vendy (Great Britain) 21-17, 21-19 in Men's Doubles Group A Match.
- **Boxing:** Lovlina Borgohain beat Nadine Apetz of Germany 3-2 in Women's 69kg Round of 16 Bout.
- **Table Tennis:** A Sharath Kamal lost to Ma Long (China) 7-11, 11-8, 11-13, 4-11, 4-11 in Men's Singles Round 3 Match.
- **Shooting:** Saurabh Chaudhary/Manu Bhaker and Yeshahswini Deswal/Abhishek Verma fail to qualify for medal round in 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event.
  Elavenil Valarivan/Divyansh Singh Panwar and Anjum Moudgil/Deepak Kumar fail to qualify for medal round in 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event.
- **Sailing:** Nethra Kumanan 32nd and 38th in Race 5 and 6 in Women's Laser Radial.
  Vishnu Saravanan 23rd and 22nd in Race 5 and 6 in Men's Laser.
  KC Ganapathy and Varun Thakkar 18th in Race 1 in Men's Skiff 49er.

IN FOCUS TODAY

- **Hockey:** India vs Great Britain (Women's)
- **Badminton:** P V Sindhu vs NY Cheung (Hong Kong) and B Sai Praneeth vs M Caljouw (Netherlands).
- **Boxing:** Pooja Rani vs Ichrak Chaib (Algeria.
- **Rowing:** Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh in Men's Lightweight Double Sculls Semifinal 2.
- **Archery:** Tarundeep Rai vs Oleksii Hunbin (Ukraine).
  Pravin Jadhav vs Galsan Bazarzhapov (Russian Olympic Committee).
  Deepika Kumari vs Karma (Bhutan).

India's Mandeep Singh (11) celebrates after Rupinder Pal Singh, right, scored against Spain during men's field hockey match on Tuesday AP

Back to winning ways

Rupinder's brace hands India 3-0 win over Spain in Olympic men's hockey

Tokyo: Dragflicker Rupinder Pal Singh scored a brace as the Indian men's hockey overcame a demoralising defeat in the previous match to cruise past Spain 3-0 and inch closer to a quarterfinal berth at the Tokyo Olympics on Tuesday.

Drubbed 1-7 by Australia in their last match, India produced a spirited performance against world No 9 Spain and scored through Simranjeet Singh (14th minute) and Rupinder Pal Singh (15th and 51st) to record a comfortable win in their third Pool A match at the Oi Hockey Stadium.

India, ranked fourth in the world, had earlier defeated New Zealand 3-2 in their opening fixture. Spain, on the other hand, are yet to register a win in the competition.

Spain drew 1-1 against Argentina before losing 3-4 to New Zealand.

The Indians will next play reigning Olympic champions Argentina on Thursday.

For any team it is always tough to recover from a morale-shattering loss within a day, but India looked more organised and sorted against Spain on Tuesday.

Despite the win, India's chief coach Graham Reid said the team needs to work upon a lot of grey areas, like conceding penalty corners, ahead of their remaining matches.

INDIA'S SCHEDULE ON JULY 28 (ALL TIMES IST)

TIME	EVENTS	ATHLETES
06:30 AM	**Hockey:** Women's Pool A Match	India vs Great Britain
07:30 AM	**Badminton:** Women's Singles Group Match	PV Sindhu
07:31 AM	**Archery:** Men's individual 1/32 Eliminations	Tarundeep Rai
08:00 AM	**Rowing:** Men's Doubles Sculls Semifinals	Arjun Lal Jat & Arvind Singh
08:35 AM	**Sailing:** 49er Men's Race 2,3 & 4	KC Ganapathy & Varun Thakkar
12:30 PM	**Archery:** Men's individual 1/32 Eliminations	Pravin Jadhav
02:14 PM	**Archery:** Women's individual 1/32 Eliminations	Deepika Kumari
02:30 PM	**Badminton:** Men's Singles Group Match	B Sai Praneeth
02:33 PM	**Boxing:** Women's 75kg Round of 16	Pooja Rani

LIVE ON SONY TEN & SIX NETWORK

"Better result today, but a lot of things to work on from an improvement perspective. The fact that we gave too many corners, that's always a concern when that happens. But the team did really well in terms of defending," he said.

"The first quarter was played very well, we could move the ball really well and it was exactly what we planned to do. We struggled a bit in the second and third quarters."

Women need to create and grab chances

Tokyo: Enduring a forgettable campaign, bottom-placed Indian women's hockey team can't afford squandering any more chances if it fancies upsetting defending champions Great Britain on Wednesday.

After a 1-5 drubbing against world number one the Netherlands, the Indians players lifted their game by leaps and bounds to give third-ranked Germany a run for their money before losing 0-2 in their next Pool A match.

But two consecutive defeats have definitely pegged the side back. India created a lot of scoring opportunities against Germany but finishing was lacking from the forward line. On one occasion, Vandana Katariya was denied by the goal post too.

But not converting the penalty stroke was a huge miss.

However, the Rani Rampal-led side can take a lot of heart from its performance against the Germans given that it kept the intensity and fight intact till the final hooter.

With two defeats from as many games, the Indian women are currently lying at the bottom of the six-team Pool A, which is being headed by Netherlands, followed by Germany, Britain, Ireland and South Africa.

But these are still early days with three matches each remaining for all the teams. Top four sides from each pool of six will qualify for the quarterfinals.

Ranked 11th in the world, India stand a chance to make the quarterfinals but for that to happen they will have to outplay seventh-ranked Ireland and South Africa, who are placed 16th.

Indias Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty play against Britains Ben Lane and Sean Vendy during their mens doubles group play stage match PTI

Chirag-Satwik exit despite win

Tokyo: Indian shuttlers Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy emerged victorious against the England pair of Ben Lane and Sean Vendy in their final Group A match but still missed out on qualifying for the quarterfinals at the Tokyo Olympics on Tuesday.

Ranked 10th in the world, the Indians beat world number 18 team 21-17, 21-19 in a 44-minute Group A men's doubles match at the Musashino Forest Plaza.

However, they couldn't make it to the knockout stage as they finished third in the Group A behind top-ranked Indonesian team of Marcus Gideon Fernaldi and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo and world number three Yang Lee and Chi-Lin Wang of Chinese Taipei.

"We knew the moment Lee Yang/Wang Chi-Lin won, we don't stand a chance. They won in two games and we won in three. It is quite sad. Unfortunately, even after winning two matches in the group, we don't go through. But that is badminton and have to live with it," said Chirag.

All three teams finished on same points with two wins each and when the number of games won was considered to identify the qualifiers, the Indians lost.

Chirag and Satwik's straight game loss to the Indonesians on Monday cost them dear.

Moments before the Indian pair stepped on the court, Lee and Wang had completed a three-game win over Sukamuljo and Gideon in the preceding group match, rendering the result of India's contest against Britain inconsequential.

Sharath goes down fighting

Tokyo: Sharath Kamal matched the legendary Ma Long stroke for stroke in the first three games before making a third round exit from the table tennis competition on Tuesday, ending India's medal-less yet impressive run at the Tokyo Olympics.

Following the unprecedented gains made from the 2018 Asian Games, where India won a table tennis medal for the first time ever, the performance of Sharath and Manika Batra in the round of 32 added significantly to the sport's growing popularity.

They both achieved a first by reaching the third round at the Summer Games.

A less tougher draw in mixed doubles, in which Sharath and Manika were seen as medal contenders, as well as in the men's singles could have seen the Indians scaling new heights.

The way 39-year-old Sharath played against Long has convinced him to think about competing in his fifth Olympics in Paris.

He fought tooth and nail in the first three games against the reigning Olympic and world champion Long before going down 7-11, 11-8, 11-13, 4-11, 4-11 in 46 minutes.

To have a player like Long under pressure in itself is a significant achievement for the seasoned Indian.

"It was the best three games and probably the best match and best tournament I ever played," Sharath said.

The Chinese great too acknowledged that Sharath made it tough for him.

"It was a tough match. Of course at the Olympics every match, no matter the opponent, no matter the country, it's always tough," said Long.

"I did prepare for difficulties. The third game was crucial. After gutting it out the last two games were better," he added.

With Sharath's defeat, India's challenge ended in table tennis as Manika, Sutirtha Mukherjee and G Sathiyan had already exited the singles competition.

Lovlina makes QFs

Tokyo: Indian boxer Lovlina Borgohain (69kg) advanced to the quarterfinals in her debut Olympic appearance on Tuesday, defeating German veteran Nadine Apetz in a closely-fought last-16 stage bout.

Borgohain, the lone Indian boxer in action on the day, prevailed 3-2 over her rival who is 12 years her senior. Both the boxers were making their Games debut and the Indian became the first from her nine-strong team to make the quarterfinal stage.

The 23-year-old showed great poise in a tense contest to triumph by the thinnest of margins. She claimed all the three rounds on split points.

The 35-year-old Apetz was the first German woman to qualify for a boxing event at the Olympics. She is a two-time world championship Bronze-medallist and a former European champion.

Germany's Nadine Apetz, left, looks for an opening against Lovlina Borgohain during their 69kg boxing match AP

Borgohain is a two-time World and Asian championships Bronze-medallist and will next face Chinese Taipei's Nien-Chin Chen on July 30, who is seeded fourth.

A win in the upcoming contest would assure Borgohain of at least a Bronze medal at the mega-event.

On Wednesday, Asian champion Pooja Rani (75kg) will square off against Algerian youngster Ichrak Chaib.

Shooters poor form continues

Manu Bhaker & Saurabh Chaudhary during 10m Air Pistol mixed team event PTI

Tokyo: Indian shooters endured yet another forgettable outing at the Tokyo Olympics on Tuesday as they crashed out in the qualifying stages of the mixed team events in both pistol and rifle.

Considered the team's best bet for a podium finish, the duo of Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker caved in under pressure and failed to qualify for the final of the 10m air pistol mixed team event.

Thy finished seventh in Qualification 2 after topping the first phase with 582. Both the 19-year-old shooters lost the plot completely when the top eight teams battled it out in the second phase.

The other Indian team in the event, Abhishek Verma and Yashaswini Singh Deswal, failed to clear Qualification 1 and finished in 17th place, having totalled 564 across six series (three each for one member).

The team of Chaudhary and Bhaker totalled 380 across two series each in the second phase of the qualification.

While the top eight teams make the Qualification 2, the top four pairs in the second phase qualify for the medal rounds.

Later in the day, both the Indian pairs participating in the 10m air rifle mixed team event crashed out in the first qualifications stage, missing out on yet another final after an outing that left a lot to be desired.

The duo of Elavenil Valarivan and Divyansh Singh Panwar finished 12th with a total of 626.5 across three series each, while Anjum Moudgil and Deepak Kumar ended 18th out of 29 pairs with an aggregate score of 623.8.

NRAI BOSS TALKS OF 'OVERHAUL'

Tokyo: The Indian shooting federation on Tuesday promised an 'overhaul' of the coaching staff after the 15-strong contingent's Olympic campaign moved from one disaster to another.

As the country's shooters continued to belie expectations with their horror show here, reliving the Rio 2016 debacle, the head of the sport's national governing body promised a major revamp in coaching and support staff.

"Definitely the performances have not been on expected lines and I have spoken of an overhaul of coaching and support staff," NRAI Raninder Singh said.

Questions are being raised about why the shooters were not able to replicate their excellent showing at the ISSF World Cups at the Olympics.

"I feel something is lacking in getting our shooters prepared for these big occasions, because clearly the talent is there and we have seen it here as well," the NRAI boss said.

However, Raninder said that not all is still lost for the Indian shooting team as it is left with a few more starts.

"Having said that we still have starts left and let's continue to back the team and I am sure we'll get results. Postmortems can wait till after the Games," Raninder said.

Osaka eliminated

AFP ■ TOKYO

Japan's Naomi Osaka suffered a 6-1, 6-4 defeat to Marketa Vondrousova in the third round of the Tokyo Games on Tuesday, crushing her dreams of winning Olympic Gold at home.

Osaka, who lit the Olympic cauldron during the opening ceremony, struggled in an error-strewn display under the centre court roof at Ariake Tennis Park and was knocked out in 68 minutes.

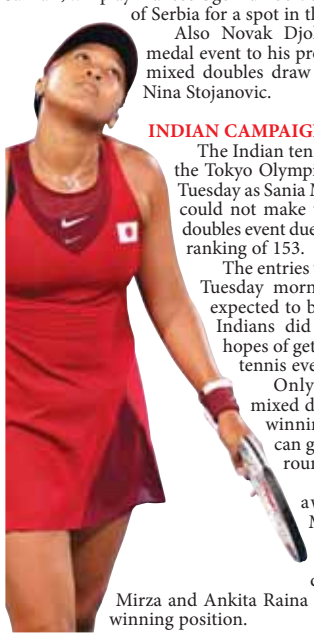
Vondrousova, ranked 42nd, will go on to face Spain's Paula Badosa or Nadia Podoroska of Argentina.

Meanwhile, Stefanos Tsitsipas advanced to the third round of the Olympics men's tennis tournament on Tuesday as he avenged last month's Wimbledon loss to Frances Tiafoe.

The Greek third seed downed American Tiafoe 6-3, 6-4 under the centre court roof at Ariake Tennis Park, where all play on outside courts was delayed an hour by morning drizzle.

Tsitsipas, who is also entered in mixed doubles with Maria Sakkari, will play France's Ugo Humbert or Miomir Kecmanovic of Serbia for a spot in the quarter-finals.

Also Novak Djokovic added another medal event to his program by entering the mixed doubles draw with Serbian partner Nina Stojanovic.



INDIAN CAMPAIGN OVER

The Indian tennis team's campaign at the Tokyo Olympics officially ended on Tuesday as Sania Mirza and Sumit Nagal could not make the cut for the mixed doubles event due to their low combined ranking of 153.

The entries were to be finalised on Tuesday morning and the cut was expected to be between 50-60. The Indians did not even have faint hopes of getting into the easiest of tennis events at the Games.

Only 16 teams play the mixed doubles event and thus winning just two matches can get a team in the medal round.

Nagal was blown away by Daniil Medvedev in the men's singles competition, while the women's doubles pair of Sania Mirza and Ankita Raina lost its opener from a winning position.

Sailors Vishnu, Nethra at 22nd & 33rd spot

Enoshima: Indian sailors Vishnu Saravanan and Nethra Kumanan finished way behind the leaders as they ended at 22nd and 33rd spot in the respective events after six races in the Tokyo Olympics here on Tuesday. Saravanan finished 23rd and 22nd in the fifth and sixth race in the men's laser event while Kumanan was 32nd and 38th in the two races of the women's laser radial event held at Enoshima Yacht Harbour on Tuesday. Four more races and medal race remain in the competition and the India duo were far behind in the rankings.

Each event consists of a series of races. Points in each race are awarded according to position: the winner gets one point, the second-placed finisher scores two and so on.

The final race is called the medal race, for which points are doubled. Following the medal race, the individual or crew with the fewest total points is declared the winner.

BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
E-PROCUREMENT NOTICE
E-Mail Id-ee2@bmc.gov.in
C-645

1. Bid reference No : BMC-EED-II-05/2021-22 Dt. 26.07.2021
2. Tender Call notice No : No. 62145. Dt. 26.07.2021
3. No of work : 12 Nos
4. Bid Value : Rs. 1,78,403/-to Rs. 16,96,164/-
5. Period of completion : 30 to 60 Days

Date and time schedule

Start	End	Opening
28.7.21	5 P.M. of 8.8.21	11.00 A.M. 9.8.21

6. Tender details: Can be seen for the procurement portal: https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in. BMC website https://www.bmc.gov.in

Executive Engineer, Div-II
Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation
OIPR-13002/11/0038/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
Office of the Executive Engineer
Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar.
(Phone/Fax: (06821) 241133 / E -mail: eernbbngr@yahoo.in)
B-248
Ltr. No.5465 // Dtd.22.07.2021
INVITATTIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)
E-Procurement Bid Identification No.E.E –BNJ-R&B- 08 / 2021-22.

1.	Name of work.	:-	Eleven Nos. of Works
2.	No. of works	:-	Road works.
3.	No. of Covers	:-	Single Cover
4.	Estimated cost	:-	Rs.44.331 to 18.993 lakhs
5.	Period of Completion	:-	Four Calendar Months.
6.	Date of time of availability of bid document in the portal	:-	From 12.00 Noon of dated 30.07.2021 to 5.00 PM. of dated 09.08.2021.
7.	Last date/time for receipt of bids in the portal	:-	Up to 5.00 PM. of dated 09.08.2021.
8.	Date of opening of bid documents	:-	At 11.00 A.M. of 10.08.2021.
9.	Class of Contractor	:-	"C", "B" & "A" Class Contractor
10.	Name and address of officer inviting Bid	:-	Executive Engineer, Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division, Bhanjanagar

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal www.tendersodisha.gov.in. The Addendum / Corrigendum if any will be hosted in the website only.

Executive Engineer
Bhanjanagar (R&B) Division
OIPR-34015/11/0006/2122

ODISHA HYDRO POWER CORPORATION LTD.
OFFICE OF THE SENIOR GENERAL MANAGER (ELECTRICAL)
UPPER KOLAB HYDRO ELETRIC PROJECT
AT/PO BARINIPUT,DIST. KORAPUT – 764006 , ODISHA
PHONE: - (06854)242001,FAX: - (06854)242093,e-mail: sgmel.ukhep@gmail.com
CIN: U40101OR1995SGC003963
OHPC
CAD-715

TENDER CALL NOTICE NO/UKHEP/ 05/2021-2022, DATED 16.07.2021

Sealed tenders are invited in two part i.e. (1) Technical Bid & (2) Price Bid in separate sealed envelopes from Govt. registered Contractors / Agencies for following work on job contract basis for a Calendar year (12 Months).

The sale of Tender Paper will be from : 02.08.2021 to 13.00 Hrs of 17.08.2021
The last date & time of receipt of Tender : 16.00 Hrs of 17.08.2021
The date and time of opening of Tender : 16.30 Hrs of 17.08.2021

Sl No	Descriptiss of work	Cost of tender paper in Rs	EMD
1	"Cleaning, up keeping and removal of Garbages of Upper Kolab power House and its area, Switchyard Control Room, All Stores, Workshop, Valve House, Penstock area and Area of Residential & Non-residential buildings of UKHEP, Bariniput & Power House Colony on Job contract basis for the year 2021-22 for a calendar year (12months)	7000/- (Non- refundable) (Rs.6000/-+18% GST)	Rs. 40,000,00

For details of tender documents, Terms & conditions, downloading, please visit our website www.ohpcltd.com.

C & P Head,
Upper Kolab H.E.Project
Bariniput
OIPR-04002/11/0007/2122

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
LOWER SUKTEL R.R.C&B DIVISION, BOLANGIR
e-mail Id- lsrrcbdbgr@gmail.com
A-320
'e' procurement Notice
Bid Identification No.-LSRRC&BD-BGR-01/2021-22

The Superintending Engineer Lower Suktel RRC&B Division Bolangir on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online percentage rate tender to be received in online mode only for the work as detailed below.

1.	Name of work	:	Construction of Cement concrete link road (PWD road to Block –C) in Larkipali & Sadeipali R.R colony of LSIP, Balangir.
2.	Estimated cost	:	Rs.41,31,029/-
3.	Cost of tender paper	:	Rs.6000/-
4.	Class of Contractor	:	'B' & 'A' Class
5.	Period of completion	:	4(four) Calendar months
6.	Date & time of availability of Bid documents in the portal	:	From Dt.28.07.2021 at 10:00 AM. to Dt.11.08.2021 up to 5:30 PM.
7.	Last Date & time of receipt of Bids in the portal	:	Dt. 11.08.2021 up to 5:30 PM.
8.	Date & time of opening of Bid in the portal	:	Dt. 12.08.2021 at 11:00 AM
9.	Name & address of the Officer inviting Bid	:	Superintending Engineer, Lower Suktel R.R.C & B Division Bolangir, At-Laltikra, P.O-R.College Dist-Bolangir 767002.
10.	Any corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the Govt. website only.		
11.	Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal-www.tendersodisha.gov.in		

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
LOWER SUKTEL R.R.C&B DIVISION,
BOLANGIR
OIPR-32182/11/0001/2122