

OPINION 6 RESISTANCE TO COUP BLEEDS MYANMAR

MONEY 9 EXPORTS JUMP 69.35% TO USD 32.27 BN IN MAY

AVENUES 10 HYBRID LEARNING IS WAY FORWARD

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INDIA HOLD ON FOR A VITAL POINT 12 SPORT

Caution thrown to winds, experts fear early relapse



People flout social distancing norms at a market in Jammu on Tuesday PTI

Covid-19 IN INDIA
TOTAL CASES: 2,96,27,763 (+57,678)
DEATHS: 3,79,551 (+2,489)
RECOVERED: 2,83,75,144 (+1,02,220)
ACTIVE: 8,61,404
MAHA: 59,24,773 (+7,652)
K'TAKA: 27,77,010 (+5,041)
KERALA: 27,48,205 (+12,246)
TN: 23,78,298 (+11,805)
DELHI: 14,31,498 (+228)

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI
As lockdown restrictions have ended in several parts of the country and people have started flocking markets, shopping malls and public places, bypassing Covid-protocol, including social distancing norms, health experts and virologists fear it may bring closer Covid-19 third wave.

They said while it is not easy to predict when the third wave will come, it is important to increase vaccination and ensure that people follow social norms to limit the scope of transmission and mutation of the virus. They feared that the country may see a super surge in Covid-19 caseload sooner or later unless vaccination coverage is spread at a rapid pace before new variants arrive.

Delta Plus variant of interest, not 'variant of concern': Govt

New Delhi: The new Delta Plus mutation of coronavirus is "a variant of interest", not "a variant of concern", the Government said on Tuesday. "Delta variant played a major role in the second wave. An additional mutation of this variant, known as Delta Plus,

Massive vaccination only hope to delay or prevent Covid 3rd wave, say virologists

The visibly upset Union Health Ministry on Tuesday warned the public that as the country is dealing with highly transmissible variants now, containment, social distancing need to be more stringent.

NITI Aayog member Dr VK Paul said at a Press conference here that the Government is keeping an eye on the Delta Plus variant, and the vaccination process in India is expected to scale up.

However, he warned people should maintain social distancing. "Responsibility and discipline are two important things for unlocking. Virus transmission is very low right now. Cluster cases should be contained.

We are dealing with a highly transmissible variant this year than we were in 2020, hence we need to exercise greater caution and strictly abide by Covid appropriate behaviour", he said.

LJP wide open: Chirag, Paras try to pull strings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The rival factions of the LJP went in overdrive on Tuesday to gain the upper hand in keeping the party organisation on their side. While Pashupati Kumar Paras-led faction removed Chirag Paswan from the post of the president of the party, Chirag hit back by expelling Paras and four other rebel MPs from the party.

While it's clear that the anti-Chirag move has the blessing of both Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and the BJP leadership, Chirag is hoping that Prime Minister Narendra Modi or Home Minister Amit Shah will come to his rescue.

"After all Chirag battled for the BJP in the Bihar Assembly polls, which spoiled his relationship with the BJP. Now it's up to the PM and the HM to find a solution to this crisis. Chirag may be isolated but he carries the legacy of Ram Vilas Paswan. People of Bihar will never forgive those who betray him in his hour of crisis," said a leader close to Chirag.

In his first reaction after his uncle Paras ousted him as the leader of the party in the Lok Sabha with the support of four others MPs, Chirag likened the organisation to a mother who should not be "betrayed". He also shared on Twitter a letter he had written to him on March 29 that highlighted Paras' alleged indifference to the party's agenda and conduct against its interests, and had urged him to fulfil his responsibilities to it and their family following the death of LJP founder Ram Vilas Paswan. With the Paswan fam-

Paras-led group removes Paswan as LJP chief; Chirag expels them from party, looks to Modi, Shah for help



A view of the posters of rebel leaders of Lok Janshakti Party, painted black by Chirag Paswan supporters, outside party office in Patna, on Tuesday PTI

ily and the party controlled by it now split down the middle only eight months after the death of Chirag Paswan's father, the two warring groups are now rallying the members of its organisation to their cause as both factions claim to represent the Lok Janshakti Party. While the party MPs have sided with Paras, the group headed by Chirag Paswan called a virtual meeting of the party's national

executive in which 41 of 76 members were present, its Bihar unit working president Raju Tiwari said.

It was unanimously decided to expel the five MPs from the LJP for their "anti-party" activities, he told reporters.

It was a hurriedly called meeting, Tiwari said, claiming that many other members also extended their support to the decision and expressed faith in Chirag Paswan's leadership.

State's daily Covid count declines to 3,405

42 more deaths; toll mounts to 3,346; TPR dips from 6.33% to 5.99%

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Covid-19 situation is gradually improving in the State with 3,405 new positive cases reported in the last 24 hours in the 30 districts and the State pool. The overall tally now stands at 8,59,526.

A total of 56,807 samples were tested in the State on Monday. The test positivity rate (TPR), which was 6.33 per cent, further dipped to 5.99 per cent. The cumulative samples tested so far are 1,27,77,739.

Out of the new cases, 1,942 were from quarantine and 1,463 were local contacts. Khordha district reported the day's highest 500 cases followed by Jajpur with 391, Baleswar 296, Cuttack 230, Mayurbhanj 187, Angul 183, Bhadrak 179, Puri 141 and Jagatsinghpur 129.

The districts which recorded below 100 cases were Nayagarh with 97, Keonjhar 89, Nabarangpur 83, Kendrapada 73, Bargarh 66, Koraput 63, Boudh 59, Gajapati 58, Kandhamal 55, Kalahandi 54, Sundargarh 48, Sambalpur 38, Ganjam 36, Nuapada 38, Subarnapur 25, Deogarh 23, Balangir 18 and Jharsuguda nine. Besides, 76 cases were reported from State pool. The active cases in State stood at 51,104 while 8,04,981 patients have recovered so far. However, as many as 42 more patients succumbed to the virus in 18 districts of the State in last 24 hours, with which total death toll surged to 3,346. "Regret to inform demise of forty-two Covid positive patients while under treatment in hospitals," Health and Family Welfare Department said.

Anyone can walk in for on-site Co-WIN booking, vaccination

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prior booking and pre-online registration are now no longer mandatory for Covid vaccination. "Walk-ins are allowed. This means, anyone aged 18 years or more can directly go to the nearest vaccination centre, where the vaccinator performs the on-site registration and provides vaccination in the same visit, for Covid vaccine," Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday.

In a statement issued on Tuesday, the Health Ministry said, "The facilitated registration through the Common Service Centres on Co-WIN is just one of the many modes of registration on Co-WIN."

The facilitators such as health workers or ASHAs also mobilise beneficiaries in rural areas and those residing in urban slums, for on-site registration and vaccination direct-



ly at the nearest vaccination centers. The Ministry also said that the facility for assisted registrations through the 1075 Help Line has also been operationalised.

"That, all the above modes, specifically operationalised for rural areas, are functional and enabling equitable access to vaccination in rural areas, is evident from the fact that, as on 13.06.2021, out of the 28.36 crore beneficiaries registered on Co-WIN, 16.45 crore (58 per cent) beneficiaries have been registered in the on-site mode," the Ministry said.

State has blurred line between 'right to protest', 'terrorist activity': HC

Court grants bail to 3 activists arrested in Delhi riot case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Citing brazen misuse of the UAPA against dissenters, the Delhi High Court on Tuesday granted bail to student leaders and activists arrested as accused in the Delhi riot cases.

"We are constrained to say, that it appears that in its anxiety to suppress dissent and in the morbid fear that matters may get out of hand, the State has blurred the line between the constitutionally guaranteed 'right to protest' and 'terrorist activity'."

If such blurring gains traction, democracy would be in peril," the bench of Justices Siddharth Mridul and Anup J Bhamhani said. Making scathing remarks against the



authorities for misuse of the UAPA against students, the court underscored that the right to protest peacefully without arms is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(b) of the Constitution and has not been outlawed yet.

The court's observations came while it granted bails to feminist organisation Pinjara Tod activists Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal and Asif Iqbal Tanha in separate orders. The court's remarks will come as a

vindication for those who have been raising questions on the vicious crackdown against student activists for raising a finger at police for misusing the provisions of the UAPA to implicate innocent persons in the Delhi riot cases.

The court observed that making inflammatory speeches, organising chakka-jams, etc, were common in the face of widespread opposition to Governmental or parliamentary actions.

Israeli embassy blast: NIA announces ₹10L for suspects' identity

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday announced a reward of ₹10 lakh each for providing information to help identify two suspected individuals, as captured in CCTV footage when explosives material was being planted outside Israeli embassy here.

The case relates to an explosion near Israeli embassy here earlier this year. "Any information in this regard leading to identification and arrest of the suspected individuals will be rewarded with cash of ₹10 lakh on each suspect," the NIA said in a statement. The NIA also shared the drive where one can access the pictures and videos of the two suspects.

Those willing to help further the investigation can visit <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/18kmmCvFxm8bXQovI9bxye8qcr0zLqFr?usp>. If someone is able to recognise the suspects, the person can send an email to 'do.nia@gov.in', 'info.nia@gov.in' or call phone numbers 011-24368800 and mobile number 9654447345.

11 suspended BSP MLAs to form party

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

With Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh around the corner, as part of a new political manoeuvring, 11 suspended MLAs from Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) have decided to float a new political outfit before the elections. The new party will be formed under the leadership of Lalji Verma, who was recently expelled from the party.

Earlier, nine MLAs suspended from the BSP met SP chief Akhilesh Yadav at Samajwadi Party office in Lucknow on Tuesday. This meeting sparked the speculation that the rebel MLAs might join the SP and might contest the upcoming Assembly elections as Samajwadi Party candidate.

Shravasti MLA Aslam Raini, who was suspended from the BSP after he rebelled against the party during the Rajya Sabha elections held in November 2020, told the media here on Tuesday that all the 11 rebel MLAs of BSP will form a new political party and Lalji will be the leader.

He said another expelled BSP leader Ram Achal Rajbhar is also with them. "We will make Lalji the head of our party. All the 11 MLAs are united now. Right now we are short of one MLA, due to which a new party is not being formed immediately and if one more MLA comes, then we will form party immediately," Raini added. He said name of new party would be decided by Lalji. Raini said, "We have no complaint with Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati, but we have serious issues with behaviour of party's national general secretary Satish Chandra Mishra."

389 new infections in BBSR

3 die; 988 recover

BHUBANESWAR: State capital city Bhubaneswar on Tuesday registered 389 new Covid-19 positive cases, with which its total tally increased to 84,836. Out of the new cases, 338 were local contacts and 51 were quarantine cases.

The local contacts included 34 cases in Patia, 30 in Old Town, 21 cases in Khandagiri, 16 in Nayapalli, 14 in Chandrasekharapur, 13 in Baramuda, 11 in Dumduma and 10 each in Sailashree Vihar and Samantarapur. Currently, the active cases stood at 3,461 in city. Meanwhile, three more patients succumbed to the disease in the city, increasing the total death toll to 384. PNS

Meera Devi dies of corona 'sans proper treatment'

Widow of freedom fighter didn't even get pension in her lifetime: Activist

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Octogenarian Meera Devi, the widow of renowned freedom fighter Gour Chandra Mohapatra of Bhadrak district, on Tuesday passed away while she was undergoing treatment at AMRI Hospital in Bhubaneswar. She was allegedly denied of freedom fighter's family pension and deprived of appropriate Covid care in the State. It may be noted here that



rights to Meera Devi. In this regard the esteemed newspaper "The Pioneer", on 15th June had published a news bearing caption "Freedom fighter wife denied Covid treatment" by bringing the sorry plight of the octogenarian widow.

During Covid there is a high requirement of ECMO machine in the State. However, none of such machines is in operational mode as of now in the entire State causing frequent deaths for Covid related hospitals. The failure of the State in ensuring functional ECMO machines results in frequent deaths and shifting of super rich patients and top bureaucrats to other States, Tripathy pointed out.

10 lakh vax doses administered in Bhubaneswar

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC), in association with the Health Department, has so far administered more than 10 lakh doses of Covid vaccine.

While 6,30,191 citizens have taken their first dose, out of them 3,79,505 citizens have taken both the doses.

"However, we need to continue the Covid-appropriate behaviour even after the vaccination is done," said BMC Commissioner Sanjay Singh. Coming to the age group of above 45 years, the beneficiaries who have taken their first dose from January till June 14

number 3,45,342, out of which 2,27,995 have been completely vaccinated. In the 18-44-year category, the total number of beneficiaries with the first dose is 1,90,439.

The number of those who have received both the doses is 81,645. In the healthcare workers category, the total number of beneficiaries who have been administered with both doses is 34,040.

While 51,713 people coming in the frontline workers category have been administered with the first dose, 32,939 have been given both doses. Both doses have been completed for 3,76,805 persons by June 14.

Sero survey in State's 3 dists from today

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Regional Medical Research Centre (RMRC) Bhubaneswar would conduct a serology survey for Covid-19 in three districts of Ganjam, Rayagada and Koraput from June 16 to 19.

The survey in these three districts is the fourth round of the National Sero Survey for Covid-19 conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

The survey would be conducted in ten clusters in each district. Additional Chief Secretary, Health, PK Mohapatra has written a letter to the Collectors and CDMs & PHOs of Ganjam, Rayagada, Koraput and the

Commissioner of Berhampur Municipal Corporation to provide all logistic support and necessary cooperation to the team of ICMR-RMRC for smooth conduct of sero survey.

The ICMR's fourth round of sero survey to detect the prevalence of Sars-CoV-2, the virus that causes coronavirus disease (Covid-19), would be conducted in 70 districts across the country.

Blood samples in a sero survey are tested for the presence of IgG (Immunoglobulin G) antibodies that determine a past infection due to virus. Sero surveys are also important to determine whether disease has entered community transmission stage or not.

BJP warns of protest against cow smuggling

Sethi alleges State Govt not implementing Cow Slaughter Act in true spirit

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Deputy Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly Bishnu Charan Sethi (BJP) on Tuesday came down strongly on the State Government for allowing illegal cow transportation in the State.

He warned the State Government of his party having decided to call an Odisha Bandh and start a State wide agitation after Covid situation improves, if the illegal activities are not stopped forthwith. Sethi while addressing a Press conference in his official residence here said that though Odisha is the first State in the country to



prohibit cow slaughter by bringing out a legislation namely, the Orissa Prevention of Cow Slaughter Act, 1960, it is not properly implemented because of political compulsions. "Despite a strict stricture issued by the Orissa High Court to police and local administration, the latter seem to have turned a blind eye on curbing the cow smuggling and slaughter which are anti-

Hindu. The cows are being transported slyly to Bangladesh via West Bengal and other States," alleged Sethi. Citing an Orissa High Court judgment of August 29, 2012, Sethi said that while acting on a PIL, the court had observed that steps taken by the police were not adequate in cow smuggling cases. Therefore, the Judges had directed the State Government to follow the instructions of the Animal Welfare Board of India as well as implement the concerned Act and rules in true letter and spirit.

The HC also asked the Government to issue strict instructions to all the SPs and police stations of the State in this regard to prevent such illegal transportation of cattle and animals as well as cruelty to cattle, besides taking stringent action against the persons involved in such illegalities.

In Bhubaneswar 2nd vax to all by Aug-end



BHUBANESWAR: The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation (BMC) has planned to administer the first Covid-19 vaccine dose to all residents of the city by July 15 and the second dose by the end of August. While 18,000 to 20,000 persons are now being vaccinated at 55 vaccination centres in city daily, the civic body aims to increase the figure to 28,000-30,000 at a total of 60 centres. BMC Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Singh said that those working in hotel, tourism, IT, food delivery and media sectors in city have been vaccinated. Medicine shopkeepers, cab drivers, vendors and newspaper hawkers would be administered vaccine soon, the official added.

During Covid Minerals revenue turns saviour for State

TATHYA ■ BHUBANESWAR

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, while other revenue generating sectors are facing a slowdown, the mineral sector has turned out to be saviour for State by yielding huge funds and supporting major developmental programmes.

The State has achieved a whopping nearly 668% growth in generation of mineral revenue during May 2021 compared to May 2020. This is an all-time record even during Covid when State Government need more funds for generating job opportunities and spending on virus control measures, officials said. The non-ferrous mining and metallurgical industries sector is experiencing a boom. While in 2021-22 Budget mineral revenue generation was targeted at

Rs 13,700 crore, by May 31 State has collected Rs 5,731.73 crore from nonferrous mining and metallurgical sector. During 2020-21, the actual collection from this sector was Rs 13,604.89 crore. Keeping in view this achievement, the Government set the target of Rs 13,700 crore, a hardly Rs 100-crore extra due to Covid situation. The Government had collected around Rs 11,000 crore from mineral sector in 2019-20 financial year as there was less demand in market even though it was not a pandemic year. However in 2021-22, it is likely to surpass all previous records, officials said, as mineral sector has been responding very positively despite pandemic. In a comparison of collection of mineral sector revenue for last three years during May, it was Rs 2,036.64 crore in May 2019.

Minister launches 'WeShare' drive

To stand by small enterprises in Covid time

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Industry and MSME Minister Ditya Sankar Mishra on Tuesday launched a campaign, 'WeShare', a vocal for local initiative of the Indian Chamber of Commerce's Women Entrepreneurship Committee (IWEC) in a virtually-held event here.

The WeShare is a complete digital initiative that is reaching out to business owners and small enterprises, facing challenges of decreasing revenues and mounting liabilities during Covid-19 pandemic. The noble initiative provides support in terms of design, promotion, reach, and awareness.

Noted actress Varsha Priyadarshini has been appointed as official brand ambassador for the campaign. Minister Mishra urged the participants of the event to be more sensible towards environment and work for its conservation.

He also talked about the local entrepreneurs and women workforce of the hinterland of Odisha and how they contribute to the economy.

The WeShare campaign has different aspects like offers and discounts, prepaid campaign and I-pledge campaign. The campaign improves cash flow for small entrepreneurs to stay afloat and survive the Covid impact.

Customers get value deals that can be availed at any time during the financial year of 2021-2022. Other participants included actress and philanthropist Varsha Priyadarshini.

Bureaucrat now an ardent Jagannath devotee

PNS ■ PURI

Sarbbajibasya Jibasccha Gopati Mruratang Pati Hi. Manobrudhi-Ra-Hankara Kamidi-Krodhanasana. Mahamurti Biswamurti-Mahabruddhi Parakrama. Sarvabitha-Chari cha Drwsta Debapati Sada".

These are the Sanskrit Slokas in honor of Lord Jagannath quoted not by any scholar or saint. These stanzas were circulated among the people across the globe by an MBBS graduate, who made it to the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 2002.

He is Dr Krishan Kumar, the suave, pious Odisha-Cadre IAS officer, whose spiritual bent of mind has unfolded a new chapter in the State. Apart from being the Secretary, Works, he is also the Chief Administrator of Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA).

He has also two more assignments to handle. Despite his 24x7 busy schedule, Dr Kumar, during his tenure as the SJTA head, has carved out a place for himself in the divine world being an ardent devotee of Lord Jagannath. Born at Rothak in Haryana, Dr Kumar preferred the IAS to becoming



a doctor. The SJTA assignment is an additional charge for him officially. But the manner in which the young mandarin involves himself in the affairs of the Jagannath Temple is unprecedented. "It's almost a fulltime job for him," said a senior servant of the shrine.

When there was uncertainty over holding the Rath Yatra last year due to the Covid pandemic, Dr Kumar had a strong faith that the great annual festival would definitely be conducted amidst restrictions without devotees.

When a petition was pending in the Supreme Court for a final judgment in the matter,

he kept the three chariots ready to roll on the Grand Road. Finally, the Rath Yatra was held as the court permitted it. This year, in the midst of the second wave of the pandemic, many people started circulating fake news that carpenters engaged in chariot making have been infected with the Covid-19.

However, Dr Kumar declared the Rath Khala (chariot making yard) a bio-bubble zone and no Covid positive person was allowed entry. The construction is now in full swing and the chariots are expected to be ready much before the schedule.

Ex-bureaucrat Kanungo no more

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Former senior Odisha official and social worker Yudhishthir Kanungo passed away at a hospital here on Monday. He was 93 and is survived by a daughter and two sons.

A former Deputy Secretary to the Governor, Kanungo also held important positions in the Odisha State Council for Child Welfare. He played a significant role towards the growth of Anganwadis when the institution was in its infancy. His elder son Dhabal Prasad Kanungo was an educationist



and younger son Sidhartha Kanungo is a senior journalist. His son-in-law Dr Ashok Mohanty is a known figure in the healthcare sector. Late Kanungo engaged himself in social service and spiritual activities. His cremation was held here in adherence to Covid protocols.

UCCI holds mega Covid vax camp

1,138 people get shots

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Utkal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI) has initiated a Covid care initiative as part of its moral responsibility towards the society.

A mega vaccination camp was organised for two days on June 14 and 15 at the UCCI premises where 1,138 persons got vaccinated, said UCCI president Brahma Mishra. He thanked BMC Commissioner

Sanjay Singh for accepting the proposal of UCCI to vaccinate BMC members, employees and their family members. As many as 1,067 persons above 18 years and 70 above 45 years were vaccinated.

The vaccination camp was ably supervised by UCCI's Prasant Satapathy and Manoj Prusty and supported by vice-president Ashok Sharda and joint secretary Akhaya Khandelwal.

The UCCI has started various programmes for Covid-affected persons since May. There has been supply of around 7,000 meals at the doorsteps of patients till now and the programme is con-



tinuing. The UCCI also undertook oxygen cylinder supply at the doorsteps with the help of Sikh Aid. Oxygen concentrator is being provided to needy persons. Earlier N-95 masks were distributed to media field functionaries including newspaper hawkers.

'Fill Adarsha Vidyalayas' librarian posts'

OLA writes to Edu Min

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Odisha Library Academy (OLA) on Saturday in a letter to the Minister of School and Mass Education Samir Dash has urged him to fill Librarian posts in the Odisha Adarsha Vidyalayas (OAV).

School libraries play an important role in helping improve learning outcomes. It is regarded as the heart of any educational institutions. To achieve the goal of establishing a school library model in all OAVs, recruitment of profes-

sional librarians is needed, the OLA said. As per the information, the Government of Odisha has sanctioned 237 posts of Librarian for these schools. However, though four years have elapsed since, no professional Librarians have been recruited in these Adarsha Vidyalayas, it said.

"In Odisha many young Librarian and Information Science (LIS) post-graduates with experiences of library training are eagerly waiting to lend service in the OAVs. It is urged that the Government would take action for fill up the Librarian posts with professional Librarians in all OAVs of the State," the letter said.

Raja, an Odia fest that celebrates womanhood

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

It is that time of the year again when Odia households bustle with preparations of a festival called 'Raja' that celebrates womanhood. This four-day event marks the period of fertility regeneration of the earth, equivalent to menstrual cycle which women undergo.

Raja is shorthand for the word 'Rajaswala' (meaning a menstruating woman) and is celebrated across Odisha and Odias living outside.

It signifies the menstrual cycle of the earth similar to that of a woman. Just like women go into a resting phase during 'periods', the earth is considered to be in a latent stage. This resting period of the earth is when all agricultural

activities are forbidden. It is an event of women, for women in celebration of womanhood. The fairer sex is pampered with new clothes, accessories, delicacies and is prohibited from doing household chores.

The first day is called Pahlili Raja; the second day marks the advent of the month of Asadha and is commemorated by Mithuna Sankranti; the third day is known as Basi Raja; and the fourth day of Basumati Gadhua signifies the end of menstruation of the earth.

Barred from domestic errands, the womenfolk indulges in dolling themselves up with their choicest apparels, aalta on the feet, kumkum on the forehead and in the recent times, even mehendi/henna on their palms and nail art for

the adornment of their nails. Raja is characterised by the traditional Doli (swing) and the games associated with yjr festival. Swings are tied to mango or tamarind trees.

Raja folksongs are sung in chorus as the swing goes to and fro. "Banaste daakila gaja..." is one of the quintessential Raja songs. Games such as Ludo, cards, Baagudi, Bohu Chori, Puchi are played with friends till well past midnight.

Every household emanates the aroma of delicacies such as poda pitha, arisa pitha, chakuli pitha, Raja paan, etc. The delicacies are also distributed among neighbours and relatives. With many varieties of Raja paan now available, vendors in urban areas do brisk business in keeping up with heavy demand. Girls are

advised not to walk barefoot and use footwear made up of areca nut shells and banana stalks.

They are also asked to limit their stay to a single room, traditionally called the Raja Ghara where they make their bed on the floor and worship a block of clay with vermilion, flowers, incense sticks and delicacies. Men are barred from entering the Raja Ghara. However, many Raja customs are not strictly adhered to in many parts of the State.

While menstruating women are alienated and forbidden to enter temples in many parts of India, it is a matter of great pride for Odisha that it celebrates this integral aspect of womanhood. However, this year's ongoing Raja is an exception as con-



gregation for celebration has been prohibited by the

Government due to the Covid-19 situation.

Radhamohan was a great social revolutionary

B RAMCHANDRA CST VOLTAIRE

Prof Radhamohan, who passed away on June 10 in Bhubaneswar, was famous not only for his role in organic farming but he was an extraordinary social revolutionary.

He was fully convinced that unless caste identities are totally done away with, there would be no uniform development and social justice to all. That is why Prof Radhamohan deleted his surname "Panda" and did throw away his Brahminical sacred thread "Paita" before he started teaching Economics in various Government colleges of



Odisha. Indeed he set a trend for which Prof Parikshit Nanda became Jantrana Parikshit, Prof Bhagaban Mishra became Prof

Bhagaban Prakash, Jagadananda Mohanty became Jagadananda and Prof Ramchandra Senapati became

B Ramchandra CST Voltaire. He did not accept the theory that proper names are non-connnotative. Clearly, therefore, to assert his understanding of Mahatma Gandhi's and Tagore's teachings he named all his three daughters respectively as Sabarmatee, Viswabhatee and Amarabatee.

He believed in peace, justice, equality, disarmament and gender justice. So he solidly stood for priestless love marriage breaking the walls of caste and creed and socio-economic status. Long before Anti-Caste Marriage & One-child Family Organisation of India (AMOFI) was born on

December 10, 1980 Prof Radhamohan, then serving in Dhenkanal College, went to Sambalpur to preside over my casteless, dowryless, priestless unconventional love marriage with my beloved Swapna Bijayini.

The wedding function was held on June 9, 1974 at N Guha Lane, Sambalpur. After the formation of AMOFI, Prof Radhamohan presided over a number of AMOFI love marriages.

Since Prof Radhamohan was being held in high esteem by me, my wife and by our two sons Dr JP Russell Ravan and Dr Er Hippu Salk Kristle

Nathan. He indeed made it convenient to preside over their respective love marriages. The last unconventional AMOFI love marriage that he presided over was held on February 9, 2020. Soon after he along with his daughter Sabarmatee were awarded "Padma Shree" for their excellent work in organic farming under the banner of "Sambhav".

In a piece of barren land at Rohibank in the Odgaon block, Nayagarh, Odisha, he showed how organic farming worked wonders.

It is a fact that although Prof Radhamohan was born in the village Rangoni Patana in

the erstwhile princely State of Nayagarh and although his parents belonged to the Brahmin caste, there was no trace of Brahminism or feudalism in his inter-personal relationship.

He held many high offices in his life but he did not like to show off his authority. That his heart was crying for the poor was clear from an event that he enacted when he was a PG student of Applied Economics at Vani Vihar, Utkal University.

He had no belief in idol worship. On the occasion of Ganesh Puja in 1965 he collected a crowd of ill-clad, ill-fed malnourished children from

the nearby slum areas and brought them to the venue of Ganesh Puja to teach his friends the real economic condition of the poor people of India.

To give due recognition to his whole personality, he must be given nothing less than "Bharat Ratna." This recognition will go a long way in motivating and inspiring all concerned, particularly the youths to break the barriers of caste and creed in the socio-political life of India.

(The writer is general secretary, Freethought Party of India)

INDIA'S RAIL, ROAD AND WATER PUSH

₹450 cr seaplane services to boost tourism industry



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Billed as "game changer" for the Indian maritime, civil aviation and tourism sectors, the Modi Government on Tuesday gave a major push to its ambitious seaplane services project that would span Delhi, Gujarat, Assam, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh among others.

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) and Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard in the presence of Union Ministers Hardeep Singh and Mansukh Mandaviya.

"This MoU between the two ministries will help in expediting the development of new water aerodromes and also operationalisation of new seaplane routes in India. This will give a big fillip to the provision of a new kind of tourism service in India," Puri said.

A total of 28 seaplane routes and 14 water aerodromes in Gujarat, Assam, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar islands and Lakshadweep are in various stages of development at a

cost of ₹450 crore, Puri pointed out.

Mandaviya termed it a game changer saying it will not only enhance seamless connectivity across the nation by promoting eco-friendly transportation through seaplanes but also give a boost to the tourism industry.

The ambitious project will be carried out under a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) framework through prospective airline operators. The Sagarmala Development Company Ltd (SDCL) under the aegis of the MoPSW will execute and implement the project while the MoCA would carry out bidding and select potential airlines operators based on their commercial consideration through bidding process, incorporating the locations/routes as identified by MoPSW and routes identified through bidding process in the UDAN scheme document.

Seaplane services will be developed as a part of the RCN-UDAN initiative of the Civil Aviation Ministry.

The MoCA will also provide funds/financial support in respect of water aerodromes awarded under RCS-UDAN

Army tests efficacy of dedicated freight corridor, runs special train

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As railways play a very important role in defence preparedness, the Indian Army successfully validated the efficacy of the Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) by running a special train carrying heavy tanks and other weapons.

The trial run was undertaken from Rewari in Haryana to Phulera in Rajasthan in Rajasthan on Monday. The recently developed DFC is aimed at providing faster movement of freight across the country.

Giving details of the special train, army officials said here on Tuesday the intricate and synchronised coordination by the Army with Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd (DFCCIL) and Indian Railways will significantly enhance the mobilisation capability of the Armed Forces.

These trials were part of the "Whole of the Nation Approach" for optimising



national resources and achieve seamless synergy among various ministries and departments.

Interactions by the Army with all stakeholders including DFCCIL & Indian Railways will now assist in leveraging the DFC and allied infrastructure into the mobilisation matrix of Armed Forces, they said.

Development of infrastructure at certain locations to support mobilisation and trials to validate move of defence owned rolling stock on Roll On-Roll Off (RO-RO) service is being formalised and modalities are being evolved.

These trials herald the first step in this process to pave the way for enhancing the operational readiness of Armed Forces. This initiative would set in place processes to ensure that military requirements are dovetailed in the national infrastructure development at the planning stage itself.

In January this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 306 km Rewari-Madwar section of the DFC on the Western corridor. Under the DFC, two corridors are being constructed, the Western DFC of 1,506 km and Eastern DFC of 1,875 km.

Maintain pace, adopt novel technology in highway construction, Gadkari tells NHA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Centre on Tuesday called for innovative technology in the area of roads and highways' construction.

Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, during a review meeting of the ongoing road highways and 22 Green expressways, directed the officials of Road Transport Highways Ministry (MoRTH) and NHA to maintain the pace of highway making and keep on using new technologies for a durable road and highways infrastructure in the country.

Gadkari's deputy Gen VK Singh, MoRTH Secretary Girdhar Armane and top officials of the ministry and NHA were present during the review meeting held at Transport Bhawan after two months due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

The meeting dwelt on how the government is making massive investments in the highway sector and the ambi-



tionous project of 22 new 'green highways' in the country.

Sources said that Gadkari mentioned that the government is looking for ways to cut down the usage of key raw materials such as steel and cement in the construction of new roads and bridges.

The Minister also pointed that without compromising on quality, there was a need to reduce the cost of construction of roads and bridges.

Gadkari said the government officials should positively support new ideas. "We should accept successful practices of road construction in

the world and accept it in Indian scenario," he said.

The union minister further requested participants to come up with innovations to reduce cost and volume of cement and steel in the construction of roads.

"Reduce the use of steel and cement in construction of roads and bridges...I want to teach lessons to cartels of steel and cement companies," Gadkari said.

He also reviewed the Bharatmala and Char Dham projects and appreciated the efforts being put to implement these ambitious projects.

Army pays homage to Galwan martyrs on 1st anniversary



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Army on Tuesday paid homage to 20 of its personnel, including the commanding officer, who died fighting the Chinese troops in the Galwan valley in Eastern Ladakh on June 15 a year ago. More than 40 Chinese soldiers also died in the clash but Beijing is yet to confirm the casualties.

In a related development, a statue of the deceased commanding officer, Colonel Santosh Babu of the 16 Bihar Regiment, was unveiled at Suryapet in Telangana by

Minister KT Rama Rao on the first anniversary of the clashes. Colonel Babu was from Suryapet, about 140 km from the state capital Hyderabad.

The clash was one of the most serious ones at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the last 45 years. It took place during the stand-off in the valley. In fact, a series of face-offs started in May last year starting from the Pangong Tso (lake) and soon broke out in some other places.

While the two armies disengaged from the southern and northern banks of the Pangong Lake in February this year, face-offs still continue for more than a year at Hot Springs, Gogra and the Depsang valley.

The two sides have so far held 11 rounds of military level talks to defuse tension at the LAC with the last one in

April. Similarly, at least seven rounds of diplomatic level talks under the aegis of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and

Co-ordination (WMCC) have also taken place to find ways to speed up the process of disengagement and de-escalation from the border.

At present, more than one lakh troops from both the sides are deployed at the LAC in Eastern Ladakh leading to tension.

The Fire and Fury Corps, responsible for guarding the Ladakh frontier paid homage to the martyrs of Galwan on the first anniversary of the violent clash.

In a solemn ceremony, Major General Akash Kaushik of the Fire and Fury Corps laid a wreath at the iconic War Memorial in Leh on the occasion.

Sonia: Disengagement process with Beijing worked against India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

On the first anniversary of the Galwan valley clashes between troops of India and China, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday attacked the Modi Government saying the disengagement process with Beijing "appears to have worked to India's disadvantage". She asked the Government to take the nation into confidence on the issue.

In a statement, the Congress president noted that there was still no clarity on what caused the unprecedented clashes on

the borders. She urged the government to ensure its performance matched the commitment of the soldiers protecting the borders.

"Having patiently waited for the government to come clean and inform the nation about the circumstances in which the unprecedented incident happened and reassure the people that the sacrifice of our brave jawans was not in vain, the Congress Party reiterates its concern that no clarity is yet available and the Prime Minister's last word on the subject a year ago was that no transgression had occurred," she observed.

IndiGo plane tyre bursts while landing, crew, passengers safe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Passengers and crew members on board an IndiGo flight (6E 7979) had a lucky escape after one of the tyres of the plane burst during landing in Hubli in Karnataka on Monday evening. The plane has been declared aircraft on ground (AOG) by the authorities. The aircraft is currently being fixed at Hubli. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is currently conducting an investigation into the incident.

IndiGo flight had landed in Hubli from Kannur in Kerala when its tyre burst upon landing. In an official statement, the IndiGo Airlines said, "IndiGo ATR operating 6E-7979 from Kannur to Hubli reported Tyre Burst at Hubli upon arrival yesterday (Monday) evening. All passengers and crew are safe. Aircraft is currently undergoing maintenance checks at Hubli."

According to an official at the airport, the plane had touched down first 8.03 pm on Monday but due to cross wind, it took off immediately and went around. It landed again at about 8.35 pm. "Probably due to hard landing and cross wind, the tyre burst," the official said.

Govt accepts first death due to adverse impact of vaccination

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The Government on Tuesday acknowledged the first death in India due to the adverse impact of vaccination since the drive's nationwide launch on January 16 and after inoculating over 26 crore people.

A report assessing 31 severe cases reported since the vaccine drive found that a 68-year-old man, fully vaccinated, died on March 31 due to anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction) after being vaccinated on March 8. The man was administered Covishield. The National Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) committee under the Union Health Ministry has prepared the report. Of the 31 cases, 28 are deaths.

"This is the first death where causality has been established, with the vaccine resulting in an anaphylaxis reaction. But compared to the overall numbers, only a small number had a severe reaction. 31 cases were investigated and one death was due to a vaccine, and among anaphylaxis cases, only two were found to be product-related. Most anaphylaxis reactions are managed," said NK Arora, Advisor, National AEFI Committee. However, the panel was silent on whether the man who died will be given com-

ensation or not.

According to data in the first week of April, the reporting rate was 2.7 deaths per million vaccine doses administered and 4.8 hospitalizations per million vaccine doses administered, the report stated.

Of 31 cases, three cases were reported as "Anaphylaxis" or any severe reaction experienced by the person half an hour after the shot. Two of them were hospitalized and discharged but one died.

Eighteen cases were found to be unrelated to vaccines and classified as "coincidental". There were two cases of hospitalization linked to vaccines.

In seven cases, there is no definite evidence to link the deaths to vaccines. In the case of two cases, there is not enough information.

"Overall, the benefits of vaccination are overwhelmingly greater than the small risk of harm," the health ministry said.

"Mere reporting of deaths and hospitalizations as serious adverse events did not automatically imply that the events were caused due to vaccines. Data from the first week of April shows the reporting rate is 2.7 deaths per million vaccine doses administered and 4.8 hospitalizations per million vaccine doses administered," the ministry explained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that our client Pratap Singh Jain & Prem Lata Jain R/o H.No 101, Pocket H-32, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085 have Disowned Their Son & Daughter in law namely Karan Singh Jain & Neha Jain Aged 40 & 36 respectively from all movable and immovable property. Thus they don't have any claim over H. No 101, Pocket H-32, Sector-3, Rohini, Delhi-110085 comprising of 3 built up floors which is owned by our client. And our client is not responsible for their actions.

VINOD PANT Advocate Ch. 500-501, Western Wing, Tis Hazari, New Delhi-54

LOST & FOUND

My name is Bhela Devi and I am unable to find original property documents of my property at the address - 1/9154 B, West Rohatash Nagar, Near Gali No.2, Shahdara, Delhi. If anyone finds the aforesaid documents, please return them to the mentioned address. I request to prevent any misuse of said documents.

-Bhela Devi

PRAKASH WOOLLEN & SYNTHETIC MILLS LIMITED

CIN - L17291UP1979PLC004804 Regd. Office: 19/17m Stone, Delhi Moradabad Road NH-24, Village Amhera, Distt. J. P. Nagar, UP- 244102 Website: www.prakashwoollen.com Email: info@prakashwoollen.com

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosures Requirements) Regulations, 2015, a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on Thursday, 24th June, 2021 to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results for the quarter and financial year ended on 31st March, 2021 among other things.

A copy of the said Notice and the Financial Results shall also be available at the Company's website at www.prakashwoollen.com and on Stock Exchange Website at www.bseindia.com For Prakash Woollen & Synthetic Mills Limited Sd/-

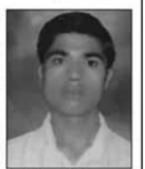
Place : Village Amhera (Amroha) VIJAY KUMAR GUPTA

WHOLETIME DIRECTOR & CFO

Date : 15.06.2021 DIN: 00335325

SEARCH OF MISSING

General public is hereby informed that one male (depicted in the photo), Namely: Suraj Bhan, S/o: Sh. Karan Singh, R/o: M-17, T-Camp, 6 Block, Khichripur, Delhi, Aged: 31 years, has been missing from his house since 03.06.2021 at 05.00 PM. In this regard a case vide DD No. 55A, Dated 05.06.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi. His physical description is as under:



Suraj Bhan

Height: 5'7" Feet, Complexion: Shallow, Face: Long, Physique/Build: Thin, Hair: Black, Eyes: Black, Clothing: Light Yellow Colour Shirt, White Colour Pyjama and Chappal in feet.

Any person is having any information/clue about this missing male, may inform SHO, P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi at E-mail: cbc@cbi.gov.in or website : http://cbi.nic.in. In Tele No. : 011-24368638 or 24368641

S.H.O

P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi

DP/545/ED/2021. Tel. 011-22772287, 22772251

Vaccine-deficient India now pins hopes on Novavax

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Vaccine-deficient India is pinning hopes on Novavax's Covid-19 jab. The Government on Tuesday pointed out that the recently declared efficacy data of vaccine by the US-based company in a large trial is promising and that the clinical trials being conducted are in an advanced stage of completion in the country.

"The Serum Institute of India (SII) is preparing to produce Novavax's Covid-19 vaccine in the country," Dr VK Paul, Niti Aayog member (Health) said at a press briefing on Tuesday.

"What we're learning from data available in the public



domain is that this vaccine is very safe and highly effective. It'll be produced in India," said Dr Paul, adding that there will be some gap in production (of Novavax vaccine) for a while. "I am also hoping they would also start trials on children too," Dr Paul said. Covaxin from the stable of Bharat Biotech is already being tried on children. Novavax's vaccine candidate has partnered with the Pune-based vaccine manufacturer to produce 1.1 billion doses in India.

The two-shot vaccine was about 90% effective overall, and preliminary data showed it was safe, the American company said. That would put the vaccine on par with Pfizer's and Moderna's. Currently, under India's nationwide vaccination programme, Covishield and Covaxin are being provided to the citizens with Sputnik also making an entry recently.

Novavax's Covid-19 vaccine provides 100 per cent protection against moderate and severe symptoms of the disease and 90.4 per cent efficacy overall in phase 3 trials, the company claimed.

TECHNOFAB ENGINEERING

Regd. Office: 913, Hemkunt Chambers, 89 Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110 019, CIN : L74210DL1971PLC005712 Tel : +91-11-2641-1931 / 2641-5961 Email : cs@technofabengineering.com Website : www.technofabengineering.com

NOTICE

This is to inform that a Board meeting is scheduled to be held on 23 June 2021 at the corporate office of the Company to consider and approve the financial results for the quarter and nine months ended 31 December 2020. Please take note that the trading window will remain closed for the concerned persons upto 48 hours of the announcement of all financial results upto 31 March 2021. This information is also available on the portal of Company/Stock Exchanges.

For Technofab Engineering Limited Suman Kumar Verma Company Secretary

Date: 15/06/2021

Place: New Delhi

Bharat Biotech defends its ₹1,410 jab pricing

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Facing flak for selling its anti-Covid jab, Covaxin, at a price cap of ₹1,410, which is most expensive when compared to others in the private sector, Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech on Tuesday justified its move saying that it aims to offset the "non-competitive" price of ₹150 being provided to the Government as it was not sustainable in the long run.

The vaccine maker is currently supplying Covaxin at Rs 150 per dose to the Centre, Rs 400 to the state government and Rs 1,410 to private hospitals. In a statement issued here, the company also pointed out that it has not sought indemnity from the Centre for any adverse events from Covaxin and that it is supplying other vaccines to the government at cheaper prices compared to



private market prices.

The company said Covaxin is more expensive for the private sector purely due to fundamental business reasons ranging from low procurement volumes, high distribution costs and retail margins among few others as explained above.

As directed by the Centre, less than 10 per cent of the total production of Covaxin to date has been supplied to private hospitals, while most of the remaining quantity was supplied to State and Central Governments, the company said in the statement.

"In such a scenario the weighted average price of Covaxin for all supplies realized by Bharat Biotech is less than Rs 250/dose. Going forward, approximately 75 per cent of the capacity will be supplied to State and Central Governments with only 25 per cent going to private hospitals," Bharat Biotech said.

The firm has so far invested over Rs 500 crore at risk from its own resources for product development, clinical trials and setting up of manufacturing facilities for Covaxin, it said.

The pricing of vaccines and other pharmaceutical products heavily relies on a series of factors such as the cost of goods and raw materials, product failures, at risk product development outlays and product overages, besides other regular business expenditures, the city-based company said.

AFTER SUVENDU'S COMPLAINTS OF COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

Guv writes strong letter to Didi, heads for Delhi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

Bengal Governor on Tuesday wrote another strong letter to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on her "continued silence" and "inaction" over the post-poll "retributive bloodshed and violation of human rights" in the State.

The Governor who decided to leave for New Delhi late on Tuesday evening accused the Chief Minister of "inaction" and apathy and wrote that the kind of violence the State was witnessing was "worst since Independence."

The Governor wrote, "with heavy heart I am constrained to observe your continued silence and inaction over post poll violence, violation of human rights

and dignity of women, destruction of property, perpetuation of miseries on political opponents—worst since Independence, ill-augurs for democracy ...

"In spite of your attention having been drawn to the enormity of situation, huge exodus of people in search of cover for life and destruction of property worth crores there has only been stunning silence at your end and you did not deem it necessary to even deliberate this grave human tragedy in any of the Cabinet meetings so far ..."

The Governor was likely to meet Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi, Raj Bhavan sources said adding, he could also meet Prime Minister



Narendra Modi and President Ram Nath Kovind. Dhankhar would return to Kolkata on 18th noon.

Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari who submitted a memorandum on post poll violence that had "degenerated into communal attacks."

Adhikari had raised the issue of rampant attacks on the opposition workers particularly the saffron men post polls. "The political violence have now degenerated into communal attacks ... which can be seen from the incidents that took place at Chandannagar (Hooghly) and Tiljala right in the heart of Kolkata ... this has to be addressed immediately ... the Government must take action before the situation spins out of control," he said after emerging from Monday's meeting with the Governor.

Soon after he met the Governor he tweeted "over 50 Opposition MLAs expressed serious concern at lawlessness and partisan stance of West Bengal Police and Calcutta Police and sought intervention as the situation was sliding."

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress sources said that the party was keeping a close watch on the situation in Delhi. "We won't comment now but we are keeping close watch particularly after Suwendu Adhikari hinted at some action being contemplated nationally," a TMC PM said adding "while the Governor needs removal the Opposition Leader is trying to save his face in his new party which he led to defeat in the elections."

Roy's friend Vijayvargiya may lose Bengal job

PNS ■ KOLKATA

After having faced a defeat in Bengal the BJP central leadership is thinking of replacing the party's observer for the State, Kailash Vijayvargiya with a new face.

Vijayvargiya might be replaced with either Bhubendra Yadav — a leader with proven organizational capabilities and with good personal relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi — or Union Minister Smriti Irani, a woman with Bengal connections.

Another reason for Vijayvargiya's removal could be his close relationship with ex-BJP national vice president Mukul Roy, who,

reversely defected to the Trinamool Congress last week after joining the BJP, leaving the Trinamool Congress in 2017.

In fact, Vijayvargiya had been under constant attack from the Bengal party leadership including senior leader and former Tripura Governor Tathagat Roy.

Refusing to share the responsibility of BJP's defeat in the Assembly elections the State party leadership has blamed the national leaders under whose guidance and plans the polls were fought. Many of the State leaders have privately asked as to why the party failed to read the "Bengali pulse which is more intellectually and logically than communally driven."

Much-awaited Rajasthan Cabinet reshuffle delayed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

Though Congress rebel Sachin Pilot returned from Delhi to Jaipur after the 'promise' by the party leadership that his demands would be met soon, his bete noire Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has conveyed that nothing can be done for another two months as he is still undergoing post-covid recovery.

"In view of the post-Covid repercussions, as a precautionary measure on the advice of doctors, the Chief Minister is not able to meet people in person. All meetings and interactions are being done through video conference and video calls only. The doctors have said that for a month or two, he should hold meetings with the video conference only," the Chief Minister's special officer on duty Lokesh Sharma said.

Gehlot's aide stated the

pressure to go for a Cabinet expansion to accommodate Pilot and his candidates is likely to be put off for a couple of months.

In the meantime, MLAs expressing their loyalties to either sides have started publicly voicing their opinion in favour of or against Gehlot and Pilot.

One of the MLAs who had revolted with Pilot last year, Bhanwar Lal Sharma, indicated that he has switched sides since then and is loyal to the Gehlot Government.

"Nothing is going to happen for the next two months because the Chief Minister is not meeting people in person. I also wanted to become Chief Minister but sometimes we have to suppress our desires," quipped Sharma in Jaipur.

AICC general secretary in-charge of Rajasthan Ajay Maken did not respond to phone calls and text messages.



Maken had last week after meeting Pilot stated that very soon changes will be effected to resolve the political crisis in the State.

including the latest last week after the intervention of Priyanka Gandhi when grapevine had it that he would leave the party just like his former party colleagues Jyotiraditya Scindia and Jitin Prasad did.

During his visit to Delhi last weekend Pilot could not meet either Congress president Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi. Only AICC General Secretaries Ajay Maken and KC Venugopal met

him.

Raising the hopes of rebels when Pilot was in Delhi, Rajasthan Congress president Govind Singh Dotsara had said on Saturday that a Cabinet reshuffle will take place soon and that "there is no problem within the party's state unit."

"Reshuffle will happen in Rajasthan. As told by Ajay Maken Ji (Congress in-charge for Rajasthan), a reshuffle will take place in the state," Dotsara told reporters when asked about the Cabinet reshuffle.

Rajasthan MLAs who had defected from the BSP to the ruling Congress have objected to any move by the party high command to pacify dissident legislators led by Pilot, saying it was because of them that the government was in crisis last year. The defected MLAs said it is they who should be rewarded as the government was saved by them and other Independents.

Twitter appoints interim Chief Compliance Officer for India

New Delhi: Twitter on Tuesday said it has appointed an interim Chief Compliance Officer and the details of the official will be shared directly with the IT Ministry soon.

The move came after the government had given one last chance to Twitter to comply with the new IT rules, as the microblogging platform had not made immediate appointments of key personnel, mandated under the new guidelines that came into effect on May 26.

Following this, the US-based company had assured the Indian government last week that it is in advanced stages of finalising the appointment of chief compliance officer, and that it would submit additional details within a week.

A Twitter spokesperson on Tuesday said the company continues to make every effort to comply with the new guidelines, and is keeping the IT Ministry apprised of progress at every step of the process. An interim Chief Compliance Officer has been retained and details will be shared with the Ministry directly soon, the spokesperson added.

Tharoor-led Parl panel summons Twitter officials on June 18

New Delhi: Days after the Centre issued a notice to Twitter, a parliamentary panel headed by Congress leader Shashi Tharoor has summoned top officials of the micro blogging site to depose before it on Friday and give a representation on prevention of misuse of the social media platform.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information and Technology has summoned several social media giants, including Facebook and Twitter, on issues related to misuse of the platforms and protection of citizens' rights. According to a notice of the standing committee meeting on June 18, its agenda is to "hear the views of representatives of Twitter followed by evidence of representatives of Electronics Technology on safeguarding citizens' rights and prevention of misuse of social/online news media platforms including special emphasis on women security in the digital space." The meeting notice was issued by the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

Earlier this month, the central government had issued "one last notice" to Twitter asking it to comply with the new Information Technology rules. Twitter and the Centre are at loggerheads on several issues for the last few months. Twitter had faced backlash, when it had briefly removed the "blue tick" verification badge from the personal account of Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu and of several senior RSS functionaries including its chief Mohan Bhagwat.

Conservator writes to PM about Kerala's largest-ever forest loot

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

The massive deforestation drive in Kerala's fragile forests that saw large scale illegal felling of rare varieties of trees recently took a new turn on Tuesday as a highly respected conservator of forests in the State known for his passion towards preserving nature writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi asking for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the controversy.

Every day in the State is marked by disclosures of how priceless and rare breed of trees that command premium prices in global market are cut down by a cartel consisting of politicians, bureaucrats and brigands. The politicians consist of many CPI leaders who act as environmentalists during day time and change their roles to that of forest brigands during night hours, according to P K Ramachandran, former head of the Kerala State Bio Diversity Board.

James Mathew, a Conservator of Forests who hang up his boots in 2019 and has more than three decades of experience in the forests

of the State have written a heart rending letter to Prime Minister Modi asking for a CBI probe into the massive illegal felling of trees from the reserve forests as well as from de-notified forest land which was offered to the tribals on the condition that they would not touch the trees in the concerned land.

The CPI Ministers who were holding the forest and revenue portfolios in the previous Pinarayi Vijayan led Government (2016-2021) got government orders issued on 17-8-2017 and 24-10-2020 giving permission to cut down any trees from these patta lands as well as forest land. "These Government Orders were against the prevailing Act and Rules which are in force since 1964. According to the law of the land, patta for revenue lands are issued as per Section 9 of the Kerala Land Assignment Rule 1964 which states that the Right of the Trees is vested with the Government. Though it is against the law to cut down any scheduled trees, the Government Orders permit to fell all trees except sandalwood," pointed out Mathew in his letter to Modi.



He further pointed out that even the payment of seigniorage as per section 10(3) of the Rules was only for the trees specially mentioned in the Act and not for the four trees mentioned in the schedule. This, Ramachandran, says is a slap on the face of the Government as its excuses and explanations have fallen like a pack of cards.

The Kerala Preservation of Trees Act 1986 restricts felling of trees in notified areas and there is restriction for cutting any trees in patta lands. Mathews explains listing all rules that as per Promotion of Tree Growth Act, lands assigned to Tribals and Cardamom Hill Reserve will not come under the definition of Non Forest Area. "Even mangroves, coffee and cardamom plantations are notified

areas and this makes the Government Order illegal," said Mathew.

"Further the Government Orders carry an unwarranted threatening sentence to facilitate the illegal felling by demotivating the implementing officials. Large number of trees were felled across the State and actual figures are only coming. A large number may go unreported," said the conservator.

He says that the inquiry cannot be limited to lower level or mid-level. "Kindly initiate a CBI inquiry so as to bring out the conspiracy at Department Heads level and at Government level to bring out the corruption and fraud in issuing an illegal order which caused extensive financial loss and environmental damage to the State. Standing trees are of great ecological and environmental importance. It is our National wealth. Inquiry by State Agencies may not bring the higher level conspiracy. Hence in the interest of the nation I humbly request to initiate a CBI inquiry so that this type of nonsense will not occur in future," Mathew wrote to the Prime Minister.

CEC Sushil Chandra stresses on error-free electoral roll

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra on Tuesday underlined the importance of an updated and error-free electoral roll and said State chief electoral officers should make sustained year-round efforts to engage with new voters for registration, and other services like correction, change of address with existing voters.

Addressing a virtual conference of chief electoral officers of all States and Union Territories, he stressed the importance of such periodic review meetings for revamping back-end systems so that voter centric services can be delivered swiftly and efficiently on priority.

According to an official statement, Chandra said such CEO review meetings would be institutionalised and organised more frequently.

The conference primarily focused on key thematic issues such as smooth, efficient and voter friendly services, update and purity of the electoral roll, integration of IT applications, extensive voter outreach program, media and

communication strategy, expenditure monitoring, legal issues, EVM and VVPAT storage related infrastructure, and training and capacity building.

Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar said the CEOs of the States which recently went to polls should suggest ways of scaling up and integrating their successful best practices such as mobile apps for absentee voters, criminal antecedents and randomisation of polling and police personnel.

He emphasised that protocols of SOPs for storage and movement of EVMs should be strictly adhered to and monitored by CEOs. He added that CEOs should ensure periodic physical inspection of EVM storage warehouses.

Newly appointed Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey said the non-election period should be utilised by CEOs to consolidate and fill up gaps of manpower resources and Infrastructure, plan for communication and awareness activities and step up training and capacity building according to their state specific needs.

Italian marines: India closes criminal cases in 2012 shooting

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered the closure of all proceedings pending in India against the two Italian marines Salvatore Girone and Massimiliano Latorre, who were accused of killing of two Indian fishermen at Kerala coast in February 2012.

A Bench of Justices Indira Banerjee and MR Shah passed the order after the Central government informed the Court last week that an amount of ₹10 crores, agreed to be paid by Republic of Italy as compensation for killing the two Indian fishermen, has been deposited with the Registry of the top court. Considering the tribunal order, Republic of India has agreed to the compensation of 10 crores. Republic of Italy has deposited it and it is now transferred to this court's registry.

Kerala to unlock in stages

KOCHI: Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said on Tuesday that Kerala was on the path of recovery from the second wave of Covid-19 attack and the lockdown declared in the month of April would be gradually lifted.

"The Test Positivity Rate during the last few days have been satisfactory as there has been a dip in the intensity of transmission and reduction in the number of new cases reported from various districts. Hence the decision to slowly lift the lockdown," said Vijayan in his media briefing.

He said the State on Tuesday diagnosed 12,246 new Covid-19 cases while 166 persons succumbed to the pandemic. "There are 1.12 lakh patients undergoing treatment for Covid-19 across the State. Last month the corresponding figure was 4.45 lakh. Since the number are coming down, we have decided to simplify the lockdown procedure. The Beverages Corporation's liquor outlets would be opened from 9 AM on Wednesday," disclosed the chief minister.

There has been a State-wide demand for lifting the lockdown on liquor outlets. "We have been paying ₹5,000/- for a full bottle of whiskey which in normal times would not have costed ₹750," said Jayagopal, an entrepreneur based in Ernakulam.

The Chief Minister said that all Government offices would function for five days a week with 25 per cent staff on a rotation basis.

Maha logs 9,350 new cases

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

The Covid-19 infections remained at a low of 9,350 in Maharashtra on Tuesday, even as the daily pandemic deaths — inflated by 1,070 "old" and unaccounted fatalities — jumped to 1,458 in the State.

On a day when as many as 15,176 patients were discharged from various hospitals across the State after full recovery, the state logged 1,458 deaths — comprising 388 current deaths and 388 old deaths, as against the 1,592 deaths recorded on Monday.

The Covid-19 infections remained very much control in the State registered 9,350 fresh cases as against 8,29 cases recorded on Monday.

With the State health authorities having not made any effort to prevent the delayed death reporting by the department's officials at the district and corporation levels across the State, the state health authorities added 1,070 more "old" deaths to the state's calmativ tally as part of the ongoing reconciliation process.

The state health authorities have been adding the previous unaccounted deaths to the daily fatality almost on a day-to-day basis for nearly six weeks now.

Between May 1 and June 15, a whopping 35,783 deaths have been recorded in the state, of which 18,847 old deaths have been added to the State's cumulative fatality tally, after reconciliation of figures.

During the last eight days alone, a staggering 10,898 deaths (June 8-407, June 9-400, June 10-1,522, June 11-2,213, June 12-

1606, June 13—2288, June 14-1392 and June 15--1070) have been added to the state's cumulative tally.

Meanwhile, with 1,458 deaths reported on Tuesday, the Covid-19 toll in the state jumped from 1,12,696 to 1,14,154.

The State, meanwhile, logged 9,350 infections, taking the total infections from 59,17,121 to 59,24,773.

As 15,176 patients were discharged from the hospitals across the state after full recovery, the total number of people discharged from the hospitals since the second week of March last year increased from 56,54,003 to 56,69,179. The recovery rate in the State rose 95.55 per cent to 95.69 per cent. The total "active cases" in the state dropped from 1,47,354 to 1,38,361. The fatality rate in the state went up from 1.90 per cent to 1.93 per cent.

The infections came down to 161 which is the lowest since the early weeks of the break out of the pandemic in March last year, while the metropolis logged 14 deaths. As result while the infected cases in Mumbai went up from 7,16,190 to 17,16,351, while the Covid-19 toll in the metropolis increased from 15,202 to 15,216.

Pune with 17623 cases continued to be remain first in the State in terms of maximum number of "active cases" in the State, while Mumbai with 17,519 stood second, followed by Thane (14,032), Kolhapur (12,949), Sangli (10,668), Satara (7713), Ratnagiri (7321), Sindhudurg (5548), Nagpur (4735), Ahmednagar (4705) Nashik (4640) and Raigad (4023).

Curbs to ease further in UP from June 21

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

With the Covid-induced situation gradually improving in Uttar Pradesh, the State Government has decided to further ease the restrictions and allow markets to open till 9 pm from June 21. Restaurants, malls and eateries will also reopen with some riders.

"Night curfew will be in effect from 9 pm to 7 am from Monday to Friday and markets

will open for 14 hours from 7 am to 9 pm. Currently, the markets are allowed to open from 7 am to 7 pm. Also, restaurants, parks and eating joints have also been allowed to open with some restrictions from June 21," Additional Chief Secretary (Information) Navneet Sehgal said in a statement issued in Lucknow on Tuesday.

"From June 21, restaurants may open with 50 per cent capacity in every district of the

state following Covid protocols, and permission has also been given to open all parks and street food joints. However, the Government has given strict instructions for setting up of Covid help desks at all these places and it will be mandatory to enter the restaurants with masks on.

"Masks and sanitisers will continue to be mandatory in the shops and showrooms. Also, a register of visitors will have to be maintained with

names, addresses and other details. Shops, vegetable markets will also be allowed to open till 9 pm," Sehgal said.

After a review meeting on Tuesday, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath gave his nod to the proposal of handing out exemptions and opening up of markets after being told about marked improvement in the Covid situation. Yogi said that detailed guidelines regarding the new system should be issued soon.



Pollution caused by tar deposited by sea waves at Juhu Beach in Mumbai on Tuesday

PTI



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Family feuds

The bloodless coup against Chirag is not unique but such internal strife demeans politics itself

When a father gives to his son, both laugh; when a son gives to his father, both cry, said William Shakespeare. Ram Vilas Paswan, eternal Dalit leader and pater familias of the Paswan family, would have had no qualms agreeing with the English bard. A father and son ganged up against the son of another father. The father and father are both brothers, their brood, first cousins. That in short is the bloodless coup that happened in that Bihar political family the other day, stripping Chirag Paswan of his position and power in his own party, the Lok Janshakti Party. Five of the party's MPs have formed a separate group led by Chirag's uncle and supported by his nephew. Chirag remains the lone MP, a victim of dynastic arrogance or political naivete. The how and why of what happened is of academic interest when the moot point is how family feuds and dynastic intrigues have straddled Indian politics from times immemorial. They were understandable in times of monarchies, but in democratic India? The Nehru-Gandhi family has had the dubious distinction — unless circumstances went against them — of having kept leaders unrelated by blood from the apex position — the party president. There is hardly any political party in hardly any State today that is not headed by a family. The tradition is derisively called dynasty politics. What is problematic of such arrangements is that the party, its politics and relationship with people and power is determined by the internal strife within the family. That demeans politics itself.



The schisms and the backstabbing, strangely but consistently, are timed to happen before major political happenings, like an election, a leadership change or a Cabinet reshuffle in a State or at the Centre. It is said the Paswan saga was brewing for some time — the young man apparently oblivious to all of it — coming to a fruition just as rumours of a reshuffle in Delhi picked up. Not dissimilarly, other family feuds are changing tack, more for the better than worse unlike the Paswan affair, in Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. The Mulayam Singh Yadav family is closing ranks, the patriarch trying to patch up differences between his brother Shivpal Yadav and son Akhilesh Yadav which spoiled Samajwadi Party's image in the State. The family of undivided Andhra Congress leader YS Rajasekhara Reddy is trying to expand its influence into Telangana as well. While YSR's son Jagan Mohan Reddy "rules" Andhra Pradesh, his daughter Sharmila Reddy will form a party of her own in Telangana. The "overlord" of Telangana, K Chandrasekhara Rao, is already trying to keep peace between son and political heir KT Rama Rao and nephew and organisational wizard T Harish Rao. These family pots can overflow anytime even as Karunanidhis of Tamil Nadu, Pawars of Maharashtra, Bangarappas and Deve Gowdas of Karnataka await the next chapter in their family sagas.

PICTALK



Hungarian football fans march towards the Puskas Arena in Budapest, Hungary

PTI

Good together

Considering decades of bonhomie, Nepal would do well to embrace India and shun Chinese lies

The 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship between India and Nepal had one very strong element — mutual respect for the sovereignty and integrity of each other. With 70 years gone, the treaty has proved to be a milestone in bringing India and Nepal closer. However, the same treaty has time and again got the two neighbours face to face on certain issues. Does this make the bilateral relations strained? Probably not. It is because the present nature of India-Nepal relations is merely seen through the lens of politics. Understandably, Nepal stands very critical to geostrategic rivalry and competition between India and China, and often its location surpasses all other considerations. Yet, people-to-people ties between India and Nepal have stood firm. Further, the political instability in Nepal requires a people-centric approach. While the borders across South Asia are contested, such as India-Pakistan and India-China, India shares an open border with Nepal. Despite the large scale of risks involved, India has supported the idea that it is a gateway to people, culture and civilisation. By bringing these factors into account, the heated moments in India-Nepal relations may see an immediate resolution.



Meanwhile, there is another narrowed aspect of seeing the India-Nepal relations through the prism of social media. The hashtags #GoBackIndia #BackOffIndia during the 2015 earthquake and border disputes in the last two years were seen as defining moments that weaken the bond. However, if social media were to result in India-Nepal relations, China would be the only player in Nepal considering alleged paid pro-China social media campaigns. To date, Nepal has a vast digital divide. While affording high-speed internet is still a challenge, access to smart phones in southern Nepal (Madhesh) is yet to meet national parity. Therefore, India's longstanding people-to-people ties, especially those between India's Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and Nepal's Madhesh region, are a testimony to the brighter side. On the other hand, the looming hype of the rising status of China in Nepal has its proven short-term validity. Chinese interests in Nepal are primarily focused on handling pro-Tibet voices, encroaching Nepalese territory for an extended strategic depth and leasing out critical areas of interests within Nepal. To achieve these, China has one tool: fabricated facts, lies and social media manoeuvring.

Resistance to coup bleeds Myanmar

State administration has shut down due to rail, health, bank and civil servants being AWOL and the country's economy has collapsed



ASHOK K MEHTA

Military coups, if successful, have instant rewards. Failure produces retribution of the worst kind. In stable democracies, the military is seen to be under civilian control and acting as per the Constitution. In totalitarian States like China, the military acts under the political guidance of the Chinese Communist Party — power flowing out of the barrel of the gun. Finding the right civilian-military balance is not easy in developing countries. The most recent power friction was in Mali, the Colonel's coup, enacted twice in six months, by the same Colonel. One of the Sudan coups was triggered by civil society. Coups were rampant in South America, then Africa and south-east Asia. Pakistan is a rare balance of military-civil authority where military has always (except a brief period after 1991) called the shots. In Turkey, the Ataturk design has been overturned and military put in its place, its constitutional rights abrogated. South Korea and Indonesia make interesting case studies in transfer of power to civilian authorities. There is no template for a coup, only an SOP. Countries under the Commonwealth have fared better in fixing the right civil-military equilibrium.

Myanmar is a unique case of military-guided democracy where the third coup has just crossed 135 days and follows a 2008 military-drafted Constitution designed to produce a "disciplined democracy" via the military-supported Union Solidarity Development Party. According to the UN Human Rights office, 873 civilians have been killed and approximately 5,000 protestors detained and Myanmar has gone from being a fragile democracy to "human rights catastrophe". Popular resistance to the coup has resulted in closure of State administration due to rail, health, bank and civil servants being AWOL and collapse of economy with criminal networks taking over underground markets. The junta claims law and order is under control, fewer protests and killings and military returning to employing non-lethal pacification methods. Dissent is less visible on the



streets and in military's estimate, resistance has peaked though it will not acknowledge this publicly.

The resistance, comprising a shadow National Unity Government, Civil Disobedience Movement and a People's Defence Force supported by at least four ethnic armed organisations, has not lost steam even after four months. Attacks on military and police posts in the border States of Shan, Chin and Karen have attracted brutal reprisals. Unless the junta is reined in, Myanmar's fear an implosion (civil war) or/and explosion that would produce hundreds upon thousands more refugees fleeing to Thailand, India and China. Sanctions by the international fora — instruments to regulate the behaviour of the military — have not worked. A regional process of conflict termination and dispute resolution has made no headway even in selecting the Asean envoy eight weeks after it held a meeting in Jakarta on April 24, which produced a wobbly five-point consensus — locating an exit strategy for the military based on constructive dialogue, release of all prisoners, ceasefire and restoration of normality. The UN, G7 and India,

among others, have supported the Asean peace initiative.

China has signalled its willingness to help if and when the regional process fails. Suspicion about Chinese hand in the coup is rampant in the country as Beijing's stakes are very high. Most of the arson is of Chinese assets which two months ago was estimated at \$37mn. Over the years, a love-hate relationship has developed between China and the military. But, more recently, China had established very productive relations with the NLD leadership. It is clear the junta will not allow the Chinese to meddle in its internal affairs, especially when anti-China sentiment is high and rising. This is a Godsend for military supremo Gen Min Aung Hlaing who has removed the retirement age of 65 for him to serve indefinitely beyond July.

The kangaroo court set up by him to try NLD leaders, including Aung San Suu Kyi, met for the first time on May 24 and again on Monday. Her lawyer Khin Maung Zaw said that she's being charged with "sedition and corruption to keep her out of the scene and smear her prestige" — euphemistically banning Suu Kyi and her party from poli-

tics and despatching her into oblivion is the junta's exit strategy for her. The UN rights office has called the charges absurd and bogus. In its latest report, the Asian Network For Free Elections monitoring group has said that the results of the 2020 general elections were by and large representative of the will of the people.

Gen Hlaing pines for the Thai model and is an ardent admirer of Thai Generals. He has an excellent backchannel with former General and now Prime Minister, PM Prayuth Chan-o-cha. Gen Hlaing has said elections will be held when the situation will permit.

At play are two exit strategies with different endgames. The regional process or Asean initiative seeks to restore the hybrid power-sharing model through a negotiated solution as exit for the military. The General's endgame is to debar NLD and retire Suu Kyi to ensure a USDP electoral victory. In the Burma coup, it is advantage Gen Hlaing.

(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.)

“ THE RESISTANCE, COMPRISING A SHADOW NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT, CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT AND A PEOPLE'S DEFENCE FORCE SUPPORTED BY AT LEAST FOUR ETHNIC ARMED ORGANISATIONS, HAS NOT LOST STEAM EVEN AFTER FOUR MONTHS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TAKE CARE OF STREET VENDORS

Sir — If at all there is any one group of financially backward communities in our country that has to be helped on a priority basis by any Government for that matter, it is certainly the street vendors' group whose life has been terribly thrown out of gear due to the COVID pandemic for the past two years. These people were just surviving on the money borrowed from unscrupulous moneylenders who used to recover their instalments from them on a daily basis, sometimes using force.

No Government, State or Central, has bothered about these small income earners during the lockdown because the powers-that-be just did not have the time to think about the existence of these poor people and neither did they have any record of such vendors at different locations. It is high time that all States should immediately arrange to go to the residences of these street vendors and identify them/collect their information/data by registering them on a particular website of the Government.

The Government has to create a basic data of these people along with their activities immediately on the particular website. It is really a good step by the RBI in advising banks to increase lending working capital loans of ₹10,000 to all the street vendors but then it is not a charity because public money is being used. Proper identification and follow-up of these loans by the banks/Government is very much essential so that the real, honest borrowers can be further financed to increase their businesses and income, raising their standard of living. After all, good money cannot be allowed to become bad money, whether through an individual or through a corporate head.

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao | Hyderabad

G7 ALSO WORRIED ABOUT CHINA

Sir — The combined declaration proposed by the G7 nations during their 2021 meeting at the Carbis Bay summit reveals the joint worry of the developed nation about the rising new superpower, China. India is an invitee party at the G7 Summit, whose timing in June reminds India about the

COVID test fraud during Kumbh



Just days after a preliminary probe by the Uttarakhand Health Department suggested that many of the four lakh COVID test results issued during the Kumbh festival in Haridwar were fake, a detailed investigation shows that at least one lakh test reports were forged by a private agency. In one instance, a single phone number was used to register over 50 people while one antigen test kit (which has an exclusive number and is meant for single use) was shown to have tested 700 samples. The addresses and names were fictional.

Almost 530 samples were taken from "House Number 5" in Haridwar. Is it possible for a house to have over 500 residents? According to the investigation official, bizarre addresses

have been given: "House number 56, Aligarh; House number 76, Mumbai". The official added: "The phone numbers were fake, too. People in Kanpur, Mumbai, Ahmedabad and 18 other locations shared the same phone number."

The sample collection agencies were tasked to conduct tests by the State Government after the High Court directed Uttarakhand to carry out at least 50,000 tests daily during Kumbh. The festival was held from April 1 to 30 in Haridwar. The four lakh tests during this period were conducted by nine agencies and 22 private labs. A majority of these were antigen tests. The State department also conducted its own tests through Government labs. Of the one lakh tests conducted by the agency under the scanner, 177 were "COVID positive", a positivity rate of only 0.18 per cent. In contrast, the positivity rate in Haridwar in April went upto 10 per cent. The agency was paid ₹350 per antigen test and higher for RT-PCR tests, which means the scam runs into crores. Test results by other agencies are also being probed now.

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

bloody flashback of Galwan.

The G7 are also tensed with the rising power of China. This is the same condition with India also. The Galwan clash has completed over a year now. The irony is that both the emerging economies have failed over any viable solution to bring this border issue to an end. It becomes hard for India to counter China alone. For us, multilateral support is a must requirement. And G7 is one such platform that can advantage us.

We, both India and the G7 nations, have the same problems: The China issue, terrorism, climate change, and so on. A robust partnership between us and the G7 countries can bring about improved solutions for us and the other stakeholders.

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

PRESERVING ENVIRONMENT IS A MUST

Sir — In the last few days, commendable action has been taken by the States. A few

days back, the Maharashtra Government passed an action plan to protect and preserve the trees that are older than 50 years in urban areas and these have been termed "Heritage trees". It seems to be the need of the hour. On the one hand, while the Centre is attempting to increase the forestation and decrease the desertification and increase the carbon sink area also, the Maharashtra Government's step seems to be allowing it although this is not a new concept.

Recently, the Rajasthan Government announced that it is going to set up a Vedic education and Sanskar board. The very purpose of this board is to connect the knowledge of ancient Sanskrit scriptures with the learnings of Vedas and science in yoga. It's a praiseworthy step towards the education sector.

Mohit Rawal | Ujjain

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

SOUNDBITE

Having patiently waited for the Government to come clean about the circumstances in which the unprecedented (Galwan) incident happened...no clarity is yet available.



Congress interim president — Sonia Gandhi

What is needed from the new Israeli Government is to start acting on ending the occupation and settlement in Palestine.

Palestinian Prime Minister — Mohammed Ishtayeh

A film like Gadar cannot be released on OTT. It is a movie that was made to be watched around people.



Director — Anil Sharma

We lacked tranquility. We were unable to control possession and play faster, which they did.

Argentine footballer — Lionel Messi

I have printed the first Real Quran, how it should have been after Prophet Muhammad. I will send this copy to AIMPLB chief to study.



UP Shia Central Waqf Board member — Waseem Rizvi



FIRST COLUMN

DESTROYING SOCIAL TABOOS

Odisha's Raja festival celebrates womanhood and calls to fight patriarchal notions on menstruation



N SOUMIK

Odisha is often considered as India's best-kept secret. The state is quiet about its bountiful nature, its scenic sea shore, mighty archaeological wonders, thick forests and lakes, a place where nature gets its salvation. It is also a state with a rich history of social consciousness and awareness, transferred from generation to generation through cultural festivals with embedded meanings. One of the most prominent festivals is the one that helps break the social taboo over the menstrual cycles in women. Amongst countless festivals of Odisha, the most pious one that celebrates the importance of womanhood is: Raja (pronounced: Raw-Jaw). A festival of young women that has been setting up an example by wiping out the long taboo on menstrual cycle of women. This festival empowers women as well as teaches the men to respect them. The festival is celebrated for three consecutive days with lots of enjoyment and festivities involved. It is generally observed during the second week of June. The first day is famously called 'Pahili Raja' (first Raja). The second day is called, 'Raja Sankranti' or 'Mithun Sankranti'. On this day the advent of Ashada (monsoon) occurs. The third day is called 'Basi Raja' (last Raja).



One day prior to the festival, the houses and kitchens are cleaned and the young girls prepare themselves for three days of festive proceedings. During these three days girls are not imposed to do any household work. They visit their friends' houses, eat sweets and enjoy together. They wear new clothes, especially sarees, and adorn themselves with colourful 'bindi' and ornaments. Music is played in villages, dancing together, sharing food items and playing board games and singing lyrical folklores of Raja. Everywhere, variety of swings are decorated with flowers for girls to play. Savoury foods are served along with *paan* (betel leaf with stuffings), the most significant mark of Raja festival. This tradition has evolved with a mythology that people heartily believe. It is said that, Lord Jagannath's wife, Bhudevi, also known as Vasundhara; the goddess of earth, undergoes menstrual period during the three days of Raja. To mark her sacredness and to give rest to goddess Bhudevi, no agricultural practices are performed for these three days. It is believed that, during the peaceful three days, with the arrival of monsoon, the goddess Bhudevi quenches her thirst. Women are also advised not to walk with naked feet, not to cut or tear anything. Even though we live in the 21st century, menstruation is a topic still talked about in hushed tones and details shared in darkness. It will not be wrong to say that this topic has not gained the freedom to be accepted by the world. Some communities consider this phase as unholy and have made unscientific justifications to back their arguments. The renowned poet and activist, Judy Grahn said: "Menstrual blood is the only source of blood that is not traumatically induced. Yet in modern society, this is the most hidden blood, the one so rarely spoken of and almost never seen, except privately by women." Educated people also sometimes shy away from talking about it. Everyone must understand that it is an integral process of the female anatomy and it is absolutely healthy for women after certain age to undergo menstruation. There's nothing unholy about it. It is time for the country to adopt the call of the Raja festival of Odisha, which sends the message to break the meaningless social taboo and thus contribute to a changing world.

The author is pursuing graduation in BJB College, Bhubaneswar. The views expressed are personal.

Italian marines case proceedings closed

The closure of the marines' case sets a bad precedence for trying future crimes by foreigners on Indian soil in the Indian courts



J GOPIKRISHNAN

Yesterday, June 15, the Supreme Court of India quashed the proceedings in the long-drawn Italian marines case (delete has)—has agreed with the Government of India for closure of the controversial Italian Marines case where in which two fishermen were shot down by two Italian soldiers from a foreign ship off the Kerala coast in 2012.

The Narendra Modi government agreed to the for ₹10 crore compensation,— better termed as blood money in some quarters,— offered by the Italian shipping company at the International Arbitration tribunal.—sentence is not complete. This is not as simple and not a question of ₹10 cr. It has bilateral relationship issues involved.

Ironically, Irony is it was Narendra Modi who till May, 2014 kept raising the marines case, spoke on this case, accusing charging the then Congress government of allowing the marines to leave India and asking Congress President Sonia Gandhi (accusing of what) if that amounted to "defending the country's interest". He and promised to bring the two killer—two Italian marines before the India's court criminal law. Why this abject surrender to Italian Government's pressure?

While it appears so, it is far from either capitulation by India or the country happily agreeing to monetary compensation. The robust bilateral ties between India and Italy nearly became undone because of the tensions the case caused in Delhi and Rome. The Italian foreign minister had to resign after the marines were initially sent back to India while Italian envoy in Delhi was barred from leaving India after the marines refused to return following a furlough. The case came up when India needed Italy's help in probing the corruption charges in the AgustaWestland case and assistance in finalizing the EU investment agreement.

As someone covering a Home Ministry beat covering journalist for the past 11 years, I knew this case very well, and I am going to disclose the origin of this case. On February 15, 2012 around 5 pm, we journalists were in Union Home Secretary RK Singh's room at North Block. The same RK Singh who is now the Union Power Minister. It was a regular debriefing and while we were in a freewheeling chat, we journalists noticed a news break flashing in TV about the killing of two fishermen from a foreign ship off the Kerala coast. We alerted RK Singh and he just picked the phone and connected to P. Prabhakaran, then Director-General of Coast Guard.

Singh ordered the head of Coast Guard to seize the foreign ship and hand it over to Kerala Police. As a journalist, I along with my colleagues were as witnessing one of the rarest speedy actions of the Mmanmohan Singh regime. In no time, the Italian ship, Enrica Lexie, was seized by the Coast Guard and two Italian Marines were arrested by Kerala Police. They were Italian Navy soldiers - Massimiliano Latorre and Salvatore Grieco—hired by the ship for security from sea pirates. They Italian soldiers were charge-sheeted for murder by the Kerala Police, and they landed in the trial court in Kollam district of Kerala in their uniform.

According to my information, the tussle between the ship and the boat, named Saint Antony, from Kerala started on the price of the fish. Normally Sships usually buy purchase sea food and groceries from local fish from the boat-stock stock groceries and meat. The fishermen in the boat and the sailors in the Italian ship argued, engaged in an argument leading to firing from



IT IS FAR FROM EITHER CAPITULATION BY INDIA OR THE COUNTRY HAPPILY AGREEING TO MONETARY COMPENSATION. THE ROBUST TIES BETWEEN INDIA AND ITALY NEARLY CAME UNDONE BECAUSE OF THE TENSIONS THE CASE CAUSED. THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TO RESIGN AFTER THE MARINES WERE INITIALLY SENT BACK TO INDIA WHILE THE ITALIAN ENVOY IN DELHI WAS BARRED FROM LEAVING INDIA AFTER THE MARINES REFUSED TO RETURN FOLLOWING A FURLOUGH

The author is a Special Correspondent of 'The Pioneer'. The views expressed are personal.



the marines. All kind of Much lobbying took place was going to settle this case, while the two accused killer marines were languishing in Kerala's local jail.

First, the Italian Embassy operated through the local Church. The two victims fishermen— Ajeesh Pink and Valentine Jelastine— were also Christians. Within two months their families of the two fishermen accepted ₹1 crore each and wrote to the pPolice and cCourt that they hadve pardoned the two Italian mMarines. The Italian Embassy, while providing legal help to the accused, also produced a letter from the families that "in the name of Jesus" they have pardoned the accused.

The Kerala Police objected saying that in criminal law, families have no role and their pardon cannot matter before laws of India. The Kerala High Court reminded that blood money system and obtaining pardon from the victims' families will never be entertained. Then lobbying started in Delhi and claims started floating that the incident happened in international waters and not in territorial waters. The Italians approached the Supreme Court, and Harish Salve was the lawyer complaining about the high-handedness of Kerala's prosecutors. At In the end of 2012, then Chief Justice of India (CJI) Altamas Kabir ordered the shifting of the case from Kerala and allowed the Italian marines to be kept in Delhi's Embassy. Soon CJI Kabir allowed them parole to visit Italy for Christmas celebrations. Shockingly, before the next hearing on April, 2013, the Embassy filed an affidavit that the two accused were not coming back to India. Then Janata Party President Subramanian Swamy intervened in the case seeking contempt of court proceedings against Italian Ambassador and there was a heated argument between CJI and

Swamy. Sensing danger, Italy returned the marines and kept them in their Delhi Embassy. Meanwhile, Harish Salve relinquished the case and his friend Mukul Rohatgi took up the case of Italian Embassy.

This time country was a facing Lok Sabha election heat and BJP and its Prime Ministerial candidate Narendra Modi were accusing Congress and its President Sonia Gandhi for of reportedly surrendering India's interests before Italy. Modi was roaring in his speeches asking Sonia Gandhi all kinds of questions on this matter. Modi even Tweeted on March 31, 2014: "Italian marines mercilessly killed our fishermen. If Madam is so 'patriotic' can she tell in which jail the marines are lodged in?" Modi was outraged that expressing anger over putting the killer marines were lodged in Embassy guest house in Delhi instead of jail.

Modi became Prime Minister in May, 2014. As time passed, the advocates of the Italian marines' advocate Mukul Mukul Rohatgi became India's Attorney General and their marines' first advocate Harish Salve got Padma Bhushan an year later: in 2015. The anger was gradually fizzling out and the marines were allowed to go back to Italy. and in 2016, India agreed to contest the Italian petition at the ad-hoc tribunal constituted to settle disputes related to the United Nations Convention for the Law of the Sea (which petition) at the UN Tribunal on international shipping matters even as the Supreme Court was handling the criminal case. Why did India agree for the international tribunal's and arbitrations when a criminal case was pending in Indian courts? The same thing happened in Vodafone and Cairn tax evasion issues when cases were going on in Indian courts. And in international tri-

bunals India lost the case ultimately after spending huge legal expenses running over millions of dollars.

In July 2020, as expected, the international tribunal ordered that India can only contest for compensation and criminal cases will be tried only in Italy. The Union government informed the Supreme Court that it had accepted the decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration that the marines cannot be tried in India as they enjoyed immunity because they were exercising official duties when the incident occurred. The PCA said India was entitled to compensation for the loss of life of the fishermen and the marines' violation of the right of navigation.

And the Indian Government agreed to this curious order of the tribunal and now tells the Supreme Court to close all criminal cases as the "nation" has agreed to the International Tribunal proposal. Italy paid compensation of ₹4 crore each to two fishermen's families and ₹2 crore to the boat owner. Why did the Government of India agree to accept ₹10 crore and avoid criminal cases in India, akin to the blood money system? In India trial courts have to pass judgment including conviction of the accused and pass orders for compensation to victims. Accepting bBlood mMoney and obtaining pardon from the accused from victim's family is valid in Arabic jurisprudence.

The Kerala High Court was right on the conduct of the trial-but was over-ruled by the Supreme Court. The then Opposition party, BJP, did a u-turn after coming to power. Abad precedence has been set for the trial of any misdemeanor or crime committed by foreigners on Indian territory. How can we justify a foreigner killing an Indian in Indian terrain and allow his criminal trial to be conducted on foreign soil?

POINT COUNTERPOINT

REACHED AGATTI AND MET WITH THE OFFICIALS. INSPECTED AND REVIEWED THE STATUS OF VARIOUS ONGOING DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. — LAKSHADWEEP ADMINISTRATOR PRAFUL KHODA PATEL



WITNESSING A FURORE FOR OVER A MONTH NOW, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PROTESTING AGAINST CERTAIN DECISIONS BY THE ADMINISTRATOR. — LAKSHADWEEP MP PP MOHAMMED FAIZAL

Disturbing dissent in both national parties

While the BJP, as the ruling party at the Centre, can crack the whip, the Congress, being in the Opposition, does not have that luxury

Both the Congress party and the BJP — the two main national parties— are facing internal problems in the states where they rule. The basic difference between them is the Congress is on the decline while the BJP is growing to replace Congress of the latter's heydays.

Once proud of its exemplary discipline and organizational unity the BJP is at present facing internal feuds. It is not that other political parties have not seen their leaders working at cross purposes. But it makes news when this happens in BJP.



KALYANI SHANKAR

The author is a senior journalist. The views expressed are personal.

second wave of the Coronavirus outbreak has dented his image though he continues to be popular. The vaccine policy, bed shortage, and oxygen shortage have added to the confusion. The Modi magic has not worked in the recent Assembly elections.

The first problem is that the BJP has admitted many defectors in poll-bound states. There is heartburn among BJP workers that while they have been sloggng for years those who entered the party yesterday are getting the rewards. This is what has happened in UP, Karnataka, Assam and Uttarakhand.

In UP the stakes are very high. In 2017, the BJP won a massive majority. The dissidents have many issues. A.K. Sharma, a retired Gujarat cadre officer

who worked in the Prime Minister's Office has been made an MLC early this year. He is expected to be made a minister soon. The old-timers see him as a threat as he has the ears of the Prime Minister. Some dissidents are demanding a change of chief minister. There is also some strain in the relationship between Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Modi.

As for West Bengal, the defectors from the Trinamool Congress are in the process of returning to the TMC starting with the BJP's big catch Mukul Roy. In the past, he had been a blue-eyed boy of chief minister Mamata Banerjee. There are rumblings in the local BJP unit about the poll strategy.

Governance in Karnataka is suffering due to internal feuds.



Chief Minister Yediyurappa is facing indiscipline and there is a demand for his replacement.

Dissidence in Tripura has once again reared its ugly head. A few MLAs, most of the Congress turncoats have been demanding Chief Minister Biplav Kumar Deb's ouster. In Rajasthan, former chief minister Vasundhara Raje is refusing

to heed the new state leadership. All these go to show that all is not well with the BJP at the local level. However, these are not beyond control.

The Congress is at present driven with simmering discontent, mutual bickering, and intraparty disputes. When the leaders are weak, naturally, the state units are emboldened to raise their voice.

Only last August some 23 leaders including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma and B. S. Hooda had sent a letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi seeking urgent reorganization of the party.

In Congress-ruled states of Punjab and Rajasthan rebels are demanding the removal of the chief ministers. Cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Sidhu

has launched a scathing attack against Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh. The high command has decided to accommodate both factions in party and government.

Rajasthan faced a rebellion last year when Sachin Pilot raised the banner of revolt against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot but he was pacified by the high command. Pilot is accusing the central leadership of not keeping its promises.

One by one "Team Rahul" is getting dismantled. Two of Rahul's trusted lieutenants Jyotiraditya Scindia and now Jitin Prasad have joined the BJP. Sachin Pilot is debating whether to leave Congress. So is Milind Deora.

It is nobody's case that there has never been indiscipline and

factionalism in both parties. It is only a question of how soon these rebels are contained. While the BJP, as the ruling party at the centre, can crack the whip, the Congress, being in the opposition does not have that luxury. Today the Congress party's chances of acquiring power in New Delhi in the immediate future appear bleak, and therefore different factions can make credible threats to exit the organization. How it deals with the dissidents is to be seen.

New parties are born when people get disenchanted with the existing parties. But internal problems arise because the party men feel there is no future for them in that party. It is for the party leaders to manage the emerging competition among the factions.

Biden admin pushes plan to combat domestic terror

Washington: The Biden administration says it will enhance its analysis of threats from domestic terrorists, including the sharing of intelligence within law enforcement agencies, and will work with tech companies to eliminate terrorist content online as part of a nationwide strategy to combat domestic terrorism. The National Security Council on Tuesday released the strategy plan, which comes more than six months after a mob of insurgents loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the US Capitol as Congress was voting to certify Joe Biden's presidential win. A report from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence found that domestic violent extremists posed an increased threat in 2021, with white supremacist groups and anti-government militias posing the highest risk, officials

said. The new strategy includes enhancing the government's analysis of domestic terrorism and improving the information that is shared between local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Administration officials said the Justice Department had also implemented a new system to "methodically track" domestic terrorism cases nationwide within the FBI. The Justice Department was also evaluating whether the administration should recommend Congress pass a specific domestic terrorism law, which does not currently exist. In the absence of domestic terrorism laws, the Justice Department relies on other statutes to prosecute ideologically motivated violence by people with no international ties. But that has made it harder to track how often extremists driven by religious, racial or

anti-government bias commit violence in the US and complicates efforts to develop a universally accepted domestic terrorism definition. Opponents of domestic terrorism laws say prosecutors already have enough tools. The Government's new plan also includes an effort to identify government employees who may pose a domestic terrorism threat, with a number of federal agencies working on new policies and programs to root out potential domestic extremists in law enforcement and in the military. An administration official said the Office of Personnel Management was considering updating forms to assist in improving screening and vetting of government employees to make sure people who could pose a threat are identified before being put in sensitive roles. **PTI**

Suu Kyi confronted with sedition charge on 2nd day of trial

Bangkok: The trial of Myanmar's deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi entered its second day on Tuesday, with the prosecution presenting arguments that she incited public disorder and flouted civic norms, part of a package of charges the ruling junta is seen as using to discredit her and consolidate its control. Suu Kyi and other members of her Government and party were arrested by the military after the February 1 coup, with criminal charges brought against some of the top figures on litany of charges that both their supporters and independent observers say are bogus. The coup reversed years democratic reforms in Myanmar after decades of military rule and sparked widespread protests and international condemnation. **AP**

Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy party had been due to start a second five-year term of office after winning a landslide victory in a general election last November. Suu Kyi has not been seen in public since her arrest and her lawyers say they don't know exactly where she is currently being held. She has also had only limited time to consult with her legal team. Tuesday's session was to cover a sedition charge brought against Suu Kyi, along with a second count of violating Covid norms. The sedition charge, which is sometimes described as incitement, calls for up to two years' imprisonment for anyone found guilty of causing fear or alarm that could cause an offense against the state or public tranquility. **AP**

REPORTS OF LEAK AT CHINA NUCLEAR PLANT No abnormal environmental radioactive level in surrounding areas, says China

Beijing: China on Tuesday played down the reports of a leak at one of its nuclear power plants, asserting that there is no abnormal environmental radioactive level in the surrounding areas and the public "safety is guaranteed". China's response came after CNN reported on Monday that the US government was assessing a report of a leak at a Chinese nuclear power plant, after a French company that partly owns and helps to operate it warned of an "imminent radiological threat". The warning included an accusation that the Chinese safety authority was raising the acceptable limits for radiation detection outside the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant in Guangdong province in order to avoid having to shut it down. "I want stress that based on the information we got from

competent authorities to date, the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant meets the requirements of the technical specifications and there is no abnormal environmental radioactive level in areas surrounding the power plant, so safety is guaranteed", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here. He parried questions on whether the Chinese authorities have raised the acceptable limits of radiation around the plant. Zhao said China attaches high importance to nuclear safety. **PTI**

Hong Kong watching Chinese nuclear plant after leak reported

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's leader said on Tuesday her Government is closely watching a nearby Chinese nuclear power plant following a news report that it might be leaking. The plant's operators have released few details, but nuclear experts say based on their brief public statement, the

facility might be suffering a leak of gas from fuel rods inside a reactor. Government data showed radiation levels in Hong Kong were normal on Monday night, Chief Executive Carrie Lam said. Data on Tuesday from the Hong Kong Observatory showed radiation still normal. **AP**

Iran presidential candidate urges better ties with West

Tehran: A prominent contender in Iran's presidential election appealed Tuesday for better economic and political relations with the West, his most extensive attempt yet to attract reformist voters just days ahead of the poll. Former Iranian Central Bank chief Abdolnasser Hemmati, among the seven candidates allowed on the ballot for Friday's vote, has no official ties to any political faction but is positioning himself as the likely candidate for moderate and reform-minded voters. "Why should there be a barrier for peaceful co-existence?" asked Hemmati, while emphasising that an "improvement in global and regional peace" hinged on American good will and "trust-building" with the Islamic Republic. He repeated calls for a return to Tehran's tattered 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, saying that if he were to become president, resurrecting the agreement. **AP**

Serbia, Kosovo restart EU-brokered talks, remain far apart

Brussels: The leaders of Serbia and Kosovo on Tuesday resumed EU-brokered negotiations aimed at resolving a long-lasting dispute that remains a source of tensions in the volatile Balkans. But the meeting in Brussels between Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic and Kosovo's new Prime Minister Albin Kurti appeared to produce little progress in the negotiations that first started in 2011 and have been stalled since last year. "It was not an easy meeting, but it was important that it happened," said the EU's special envoy for the talks, Miroslav Lajcak. **AP**

"What is important for the European Union is that both leaders confirmed that there is no other way forward but to normalize relations between Kosovo and Serbia." Both countries have been told that they cannot hope to move forward in their efforts to join the EU before resolving the decades-old rift that exploded in a conflict in 1998-99, leaving more than 10,000 people dead and triggering a NATO intervention. Kosovo, formerly a province of Serbia, declared independence in 2008 but Belgrade has refused to accept that. **AP**

Attacks target polio teams in east Afghan, 5 killed

Kabul: Gunmen on Tuesday targeted an anti-polio drive in eastern Afghanistan, killing at least five members of two vaccination teams in separate attacks, officials said. No militant group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks that took place in the city of Jalalabad, as well as in the nearby districts of Khoyani and Surkhrud, according to Attaullah Khogyani, spokesman for the governor in Nangarhar province. Jalalabad is the provincial capital. **AP**

Along with the five killed, at least four members of the polio vaccination teams were wounded, said Dr. Jan Mohammad, who coordinates the anti-polio drive for the country's east. Khogyani called the attacks cowardly, adding that two of the wounded were in critical condition. Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan are the only two remaining countries in the world where polio is endemic, after Nigeria was last year declared free of the virus. In March, the Islamic State

Israel braces for unrest from right-wing Jerusalem march

Jerusalem: Hundreds of Israeli ultranationalists gathered Tuesday near Jerusalem's Old City ahead of a contentious march that threatened to spark renewed violence just weeks after a war with Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip. The planned march in east Jerusalem has posed a test for the fragile new government as well as the tenuous truce that ended last month's 11-day war between Israel and Hamas. Palestinians consider the march, which usually winds through the Old City's Damascus Gate and into the heart of the Muslim Quarter, to

be a provocation. Hamas has called on Palestinians to "resist" the parade, a version of which was held at the height of last month's unrest in the city and helped ignite the 11-day Gaza war. Hundreds of Jewish nationalists gathered several hundred meters (yards) from Damascus Gate before the early evening march. Most appeared to be young, religious men, and many held blue-and-white Israeli flags. In the Gaza Strip, Hamas-linked Palestinians launched incendiary balloons into southern Israel, setting a series of fires. **AP**

EAM Jaishankar discusses bilateral cooperation with his Qatari counterpart

Doha: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday discussed bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional issues with his Qatari counterpart Mohammed bin Abdulrahman

Al-Thani during his second visit to the key Gulf nation in a week. Jaishankar met Mohammed, who is also Qatar's Deputy PM, in Doha, a day after he discussed the global and regional issues, including the security situation in the Indo-Pacific region, with Kenya's top leadership. "Good to meet DPM & FM @MBA_AIThany of Qatar in Doha today. Appreciated Qatar's solidarity during the Covid second wave. Discussed our bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional issues," he said in a tweet. Jaishankar arrived in

Kenya on Saturday on a three-day visit to strengthen India's relations with the major East African country. He called on Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and handed over a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to him. Before visiting Kenya, Jaishankar arrived on his first bilateral visit to Kuwait on Thursday. He held "productive discussions" with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah on Thursday during which the two sides discussed a range of issues including health, food, education, energy, digital, and business cooperation. **PTI**

US anti-virus software creator fights extradition from Spain

Madrid: Detained anti-virus software entrepreneur John McAfee testified in a Spanish court on Tuesday as part of his fight against extradition to the United States, where he is wanted on tax-related criminal charges that carry a prison sentence of up to 30 years. McAfee, 75, appeared from prison via video link at a hearing in Spain's National Court. He argued that the charges against him are politically motivated and said he would spend the rest of his life in prison if he was returned to the United States, according to a report by Europa Press. **AP**

2 vaccine doses 'effective' in reducing Delta variant hospitalisation: UK analysis

London: New analysis by Britain's health experts concludes for the first time this week that two doses of COVID-19 vaccines are "highly effective" against hospitalisation from the Delta variant - the B.1.617.2 extremely transmissible variant first identified in India. Public Health England which has been conducting regular analysis of Covid variants of concern, said on Monday that the analysis shows that the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is 96% effective against hospitalisation after two doses and the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine is 92 per cent effective against hospitalisation after two doses. **PTI**

Israel is no longer requiring masks indoors

Jerusalem: Lifting one of its last coronavirus restrictions following a highly successful vaccination campaign. The restriction was lifted on Tuesday, though people will still be required to wear masks on airplanes and on their way to quarantine. Unvaccinated individuals must wear masks in nursing homes and other long-term health facilities. Israel has vaccinated around 85% of its adult population, allowing schools and businesses to fully reopen. There are only a few dozen active patients in the country of more than 9 million. **AP**

In Oman, fungal infection found in some Covid patients

Oman: announced on Tuesday that its doctors have detected a potentially fatal fungal infection afflicting some coronavirus patients, the first such known cases on the Arabian Peninsula as the Sultanate faces a surge in COVID-19 infections that has swamped its hospitals. The country's Health Ministry reported that three COVID-19 patients in Oman have become infected with mucormycosis, a life-threatening condition commonly known as "black fungus," which has spread quickly among virus patients in hard-hit India. **AP**

SPECIAL TRAINS

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

04137/04138 Prayagraj - Anand Vihar (T) - Prayagraj Superfast Humsafar Special Express (Tri-Weekly)					
Train No. 04137		STATIONS		Train No. 04138	
Arr.	Dep.			Arr.	Dep.
--	22:30	Prayagraj		06:20	--
00:35	00:40	Kanpur Central		03:25	03:30
06:05	--	Anand Vihar (T)		--	22:35

Days of Run: 04137 Ex Prayagraj from 23.06.2021 (on every Monday, Wednesday & Saturday) and 04138 Ex Anand Vihar (T) from 24.06.2021 (on every Tuesday, Thursday & Sunday) to till further advice.
Accommodation: AC 3 Tier & Sleeper.

08103/08104 Tatanagar Jn. - Amritsar - Tatanagar Jn. Jallianwala Bagh Special Express (Bi-Weekly)					
Train No. 08103		STATIONS		Train No. 08104	
Arr.	Dep.			Arr.	Dep.
--	21:10	Tatanagar Jn.		21:10	--
06:30	--	Amritsar		--	12:45

Days of Run: 08103 Ex Tatanagar Jn. from 21.06.2021 to 28.06.2021 (on every Monday & Wednesday) and 08104 Ex Amritsar from 23.06.2021 to 30.06.2021 (on every Wednesday & Friday)
Accommodation: AC 3 Tier Sleeper & Reserved Second Seating.
Stoppages: Purulia Jn, Bokaro Steel City, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jn, Gomoh, Koderma, Gaya Jn., Rafiganj, Anugraha Narayan Road, Dehri On Sone, Sasaram, Bhabua Road, Pundit Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn., Varanasi Jn., Shahganj, Faizabad Jn., Lucknow, Bareilly, Moradabad, Laksar Jn., Roorkee, Saharanpur, Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Ambala Cant Jn., Ludhiana Jn., Jalandhar City and Beas stations

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

For any kind of information such as detailed Time-Table and Stations enroute etc., passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or may visit Indian Railways website <http://www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.

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CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS E-TENDER NOTICE

PCMM/CLW/DKAE on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the following. The following E-Tenders 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; manual offers bid for these tenders will not be accepted under any circumstances; only electronic offer bids shall be accepted. For detailed instructions please refer to website, [A] Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/Dankuni/E-Procurement/21-22/07 Dated: 11-06-2021; Sl: Tender No.; Description of Stores; Qty.; Due On; Tender Cost: [8]; 34212513; Resistor Harmonic Filter For WAG-9HC AND WAP-7 Locomotives as per CLW Specn. No. CLW/ES/3/0015/B OR Latest; As Per Tender Doc.; 05.07.2021; 0.00. [9]; 30212548; Ferro Silicon conforming to IS: 1110/1990 (Fourth Revision) with Amdt. No.1 of May 1995; Grade Design Fe Si: 73A105 to Specn. No. SF/SPEC/Ferro Silicon, Rev.3 dated 28/07/03; As Per Tender Doc.; 20.07.2021; 0.00. [B] Tender Notice No: PCMM/CLW/Dankuni/E-Procurement/21-22/08 Dated: 11-06-2021; Sl: Tender No.; Description of Stores; Qty.; Due On; Tender Cost: [10]; 30212516; Mould Dressing (Alcohol Based) For Man Ganese Steel Castings specn: M C 31 Specn. No. SF/SPEC/Zircon Wash, Rev.4 dated 04/9/2007; As Per Tender Doc.; 07.07.2021; 0.00.

Principal Chief Materials Manager, CLW/Chittaranjan
PR2-080
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EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF SPECIAL TRAIN

This is notified for the information of rail passengers that Railways have decided to extend the periodicity of the run of following Special Train as under:-

Train No. & Name	Frequency	Additional Dates of run
06077 Coimbatore - Hazrat Nizamuddin Special Express	Sunday	04.07.2021 to 07.11.2021
06078 Hazrat Nizamuddin - Coimbatore Special Express	Wednesday	07.07.2021 to 10.11.2021

This Special Train will be having Fully Reserved Service.

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

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

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BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004 E-TENDER

Tender Notice No. PCE/BLW(ET)/Publish/2021-22/03 Date: 12.06.2021 Dy Chief Engineer, Banaras Locomotive works, Varanasi on behalf of the president of India invites "Open" Tender through E-Tendering from the contractors. S.N. 1. Tender No. BLW-WAT-ET-01R13-19-20. Name of work: Operation & maintenance of STP, IETP & SUMP WELL for two years under SSE/STP. Tender cost (Rs): 6695810.91. Cost of tender form (Rs) : 5900.00. Time of completion : 24 month. Closing Date time of tender: 06.07.2021 at 15:00 pm. Date of opening of tender: 06.07.2021 at 15:30 pm. Special Notice - Details terms and conditions can be seen on website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in> and tender can fill up on the same website. Senior Engineer

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FASHION TECHNOLOGY (A Statutory Institute governed by the NIFT Act 2006) (Ministry of Textiles, Government of India) NIFT Campus, Hauz Khas, Near Gulmohar Park, New Delhi-110016

National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), the premier fashion institute in India, has recently undertaken a new project of the Ministry of Textiles for development of a national knowledge portal titled "The Repository - Indian Textiles and Crafts (RTC)". NIFT is looking for highly motivated professionals with experiences in relevant areas for the following posts for the Project:

1. Technical Consultant (IT) - 01 Post
2. Research Assistant (IT) - 01 Post
3. Assistant (IT) - 01 Post
4. Documentation and Metadata Creator - 01 Post
5. Information Associate - 01 Post
6. Information Assistant - 01 Post
7. Research Associate - 03 Posts

The Terms of Reference (TORs) for the posts are available at <https://nift.ac.in/careers>
Last date to Apply :- 09-07-2021
Candidates who had already applied for the posts as mentioned in Sl. No 1 & 4 against the advertisement published in March 2021 need not apply again.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that our client Ravinder Kuthuria & Neelam Kuthuria R/o E-148, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008 have Disowned Their Son & Daughter in law Namely Sushant Kuthuria & Niharika Aged 34/34 years respectively from all movable and immovable property. Thus you don't have any claim over E-148, 1st Floor, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi-110008 which is owned by our client. And our client is not responsible for their actions. **VINOD PANT** Advocate Ch. 500-501, Western Wing, Ts Hazari, New Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of **Rashtriya Suraksha Party**. The office of the party located at II-H-2, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951- Names/address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows: President/Chairman : Ramanuj Singh General Secretary/Secretary : Neelmani Shrivastav Treasurer : Ankur Chaudhary If any one has any objection to the registration of Rashtriya Suraksha Party they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

DELHI JAL BOARD: GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) XII STP ROHINI SEC-25 ROHINI DELHI-110085

"STOP CORONA: Wear Mask, Follow Physical Distancing, Maintain Hand Hygiene" **SHORT PRESS NIT No. 04 EE (SDW) XII (2021-22)**

S. No.	Name of Work	Estimate Cost	Earnest Money (EMD)	E-tender ID	Last date/time for receipt of tender through e-procurement Solution
1.	Supply Installation testing and commissioning of Floating Aerator at STP Sector 25 Rohini (Re-Invite)	Item Rate	75000/- Exempted vide	2021_DJB_204405_1	24.06.2021 03.05 PM

NIT along with all the terms and conditions is available on website <https://govprocurement.delhi.gov.in>
ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 110 (2021-22) EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) XII

Sensex, Nifty settle at life-time highs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmarks Sensex and Nifty rose for the fourth straight session to settle at fresh life-time highs on Tuesday as investors shrugged off concerns over rising inflation to focus on positive cues coming from global markets.

At the closing bell, the BSE Sensex quoted higher by 221.52 points or 0.42 per cent at a new peak of 52,773.05. The index also hit its all-time intraday high of 52,869.51 during the session.

Likewise, the broader NSE Nifty rose 57.40 points or 0.36 per cent to settle at a fresh high of 15,869.25. The NSE gauge too marked its life-time intraday high of 15,901.60.

On the Sensex chart, Asian

Paints was the top gainer in the Sensex pack, rising over 3 per cent, followed by Axis Bank, ICICI Bank, Hindustan Unilever, IndusInd Bank, Infosys and HDFC Bank.

On the other hand, Bajaj Finserv, Dr Reddy's, Titan, Sun Pharma, Bajaj Finance and PowerGrid were among the laggards.

Of the 30 shares in the Sensex, 15 closed in the green. Sectorally, BSE realty index rose the most with 1.55 per cent gains. It was followed by consumer discretionary goods, bank and FMCG indices.

In the broader market, smallcap and midcap indices outperformed the benchmark. Largecap index rose 0.35 per cent.

"Indian bourses

continued its gaining streak tracking optimism from global peers, which is despite the rising inflation concerns.

The global market is eagerly awaiting the two-day Fed policy meeting's decision to see if the central bank would signal any change in policy," said Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Financial Services.

He further said that domestic retail inflation jumped to 6.3 per cent in May breaching the RBI's comfort zone on account of higher food and energy prices, which is expected to ease due to the opening of the economy.

Elsewhere in Asia, bourses in Tokyo and Seoul ended on a positive note, while Shanghai and Hong Kong were in the red.

Exports jump 69.35% to USD 32.27 bn in May; trade deficit at USD 6.28 billion

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's exports rose by 69.35 per cent to USD 32.27 billion in May, driven by healthy growth in sectors such as engineering, petroleum products and gems and jewellery, even as trade deficit widened to USD 6.28 billion, according to government data released on Tuesday.

Exports during April-May 2021 were recorded at USD 84.27 billion, an increase from USD 39.32 billion in the same two months of 2020. The trade deficit during the said period came in at USD 21.38 billion as against USD 9.91 billion in April-May 2020.

Imports too grew in May 2021 by 73.64 per cent to USD 38.55 billion - leaving a trade deficit for the month being reviewed at USD 6.28 billion.

India's imports in May 2020 were at USD 22.2 billion. In May 2019, imports stood at USD 46.68 billion. Trade deficit in May 2020 stood at USD 3.15



Exports during April-May 2021 were recorded at USD 84.27 billion, an increase from USD 39.32 billion in the same two months of 2020. The trade deficit during the said period came in at USD 21.38 billion as against USD 9.91 billion in April-May 2020.

FinMin notifies concessional GST rate on Covid-related items, services

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry has notified the concessional rate of GST that will be applicable on Covid relief materials till September 30, 2021.

Also, a lower Goods and Services Tax (GST) of 5 per cent will be applicable for work contracts for construction, repair or maintenance of electric furnaces meant for funeral, burial or cremation of the deceased.

The earlier tax rate of this service was 12 per cent.

The GST Council, chaired by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and comprising state ministers, on June 12, had slashed tax rate on Covid drugs such as Remdesivir and Tocilizumab as well as on medical oxygen, oxygen concentrators and other Covid essentials.



The Finance Ministry's Revenue Department on June 14, notified the lower rates for 18 Covid-related supplies, like hand sanitiser, pulse oximeters, BiPAP machine, testing kits, ambulances and temperature check equipment.

These concessional rates would be applicable till September 30, 2021, it added.

The Council in its June 12 meeting had decided to reduce GST on Covid-19 drug Tocilizumab and black fungus medicine Amphotericin B to 'nil', from 5 per cent.

Shipping Ministry, Civil Aviation Ministry signs MoU

New Delhi: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India and Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India for development of Sea Plane services in India was signed today.

Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Mansukh Mandaviya and Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Hardeep Singh Puri were present during the MoU signing ceremony held here today.

Signing of this MoU is a major milestone for making seaplanes project a reality very soon. This MoU envisages development of Non Scheduled/Scheduled operation of seaplane services within territorial jurisdiction of India under RCS-UDAN scheme of government of India.

Rupee falls for 6th straight session

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Falling for the sixth day in a row, the rupee closed lower by 2 paise at 73.31 (provisional) against the US currency on Tuesday amid rising crude oil prices and dollar demand from oil importers.

At the interbank foreign exchange market, the rupee opened higher at 73.20 per dollar as against its previous close of 73.29.

Gold jumps ₹303, silver gains ₹134

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Gold in the national capital on Tuesday rose ₹ 303 to ₹47,853 per 10 grams reflecting overnight recovery in the global precious metal prices, according to HDFC Securities. In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹47,550 per 10 gram.

May retail sales fall 79% from pre-Covid levels in 2019

IANAS ■ NEW DELHI

Retail sales in India last month declined 79 per cent from the sales recorded in the pre-Covid period of May 2019, according to a survey by Retailers Association of India (RAI).

The decline comes on the back of the lockdowns across states amid the second wave of Covid-19.

With sales down 34 per cent in May 2021, categories such as food and grocery fared better than categories like footwear (-86 per cent), beauty, wellness and personal care (-87 per cent) and sports goods (-80 per cent) as compared to pre-Covid sales levels (May 2019).

Retailers across regions are reflecting a deep fall in sales with southern India at -73 per cent in May 2021 as compared



to May 2019 pre-covid sales, eastern region at -75 per cent, while western and northern regions have indicated -83 per cent sales in May 2021 as compared to May 2019.

The RAI statement noted that many of the states have now slowly begun to open all forms of retail in a calibrated manner.

Commenting on the current state of the retail industry, Kumar Rajagopalan, CEO, Retailers Association of India (RAI), said: "Retailers are looking forward to some improvement in the month of June with gradual unlocking."

Covid 2.0 to hit 1QFY22 revenue of auto ancillaries: Ind-Ra

IANAS ■ NEW DELHI

Covid's second wave is expected to dent auto ancillaries revenue in 1QFY22, said India Ratings and Research (Ind-Ra). The ratings agency believes that auto ancillaries would see a materially lower revenue in 1QFY22, following a strong turnaround in 2HFY21.

"The second Covid wave leading to localised lockdowns has impacted the economic activity, resulting in shutdowns/advancement of maintenance activities at original equipment manufacturers' (OEMs) plants, causing lower volume offtake from ancillaries," it said. Besides, the agency opined that industry will see a pent-up demand in the subsequent quarters if the lockdowns are lifted from end-June which could compensate for the loss of revenues in 1Q.

Anti-Covid ACs: Panasonic receives encouraging demand

New Delhi: Panasonic India, a leading diversified technology company, recently introduced its new range of air conditioners under the HU series enabled with nanoe™X, known for their inhibitory effect on the novel coronavirus.

The ACs have been tested at the Texcell Laboratory, France.

Gaurav Sah, business head, air conditioners group, Panasonic India, said, "Sales for our nanoe™X ACs were a record high in the month of March 2021."

The new range of ACs is capable of eliminating the growth of certain pollutants such as allergens, bacteria, viruses, moulds, odours, and certain hazardous substances."

No vesting period requirement under stock option scheme in case an employee dies: Sebi

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Sebi on Tuesday relaxed the vesting period requirement under the employee stock option schemes of listed companies in case of death of an employee, a move aimed at providing relief to families of the deceased staff amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The relaxation will be available to all such employees who died on or after April 1, 2020, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.

The Share Based Employee Benefit (SBE) Regulation provides that there will be a minimum vesting period of one year in case of employee stock options and Stock Appreciation Rights (SAR).

In the event of death of an employee, all the options, SAR



or any other benefit granted to him or her under a scheme till such date will vest in the legal heirs or nominees of the deceased employee.

"In view of the COVID-19 pandemic situation, to provide relief to the families of the deceased employees of listed companies."

It has been decided the provisions under the SBE Regulations relating to minimum vesting period of one year shall not apply in case of death (for any reason) of an employee," Sebi said in a circular.

Govt allocates 78,000 tonnes of FCI rice for ethanol making in 2020-21

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

To ensure enough supply of ethanol for making E-20 fuel by 2023, the Centre on Tuesday said it is encouraging ethanol production from grains as well and has allocated 78,000 tonnes of rice from the state-run Food Corporation of India (FCI) at a subsidised rate of ₹20/kg to distilleries for the current marketing year ending November.

The Government said it has also approved 189 proposals for setting up of grain-based new/expansion of distilleries (with a total capacity of 765 crore litres) that will come up in the next three years under a government's interest subvention scheme notified on January 14, this year, it said.

A big push is being given for doubling ethanol distillation capacities by 2025 as the Government is targeting 20 per cent ethanol blending with petrol by then from the current 8.5 per cent likely to be achieved in the 2020-21 marketing year (December-November).

A pilot project of (bioethanol) E-100 dispensing from three locations at Pune has been launched recently. Addressing the media on progress made in ethanol blending with petrol (EBP) programme, Food Secretary Sudhanshu Pandey said the Government is encouraging ethanol production not only from molasses but also from grains like maize and rice to achieve the blending targets.

SUNIL HEALTHCARE LIMITED											
Registered Office 38E/252-A, Vijay Tower, Shahpurjat, New Delhi-110049 Email: info@sunilhealthcare.com; website: www.sunilhealthcare.com CIN No. L24302DL1973PLC189662											
Extract of Standalone and Consolidated Audited Financial Results for the Quarter and Year Ended 31st March 2021 (Rs. in Lakhs)											
S. No.	Particulars	Standalone					Consolidated				
		Quarter ended 31.03.2021 Audited (Refer note No. 2)	Quarter ended 31.12.2020 Unaudited	Quarter ended 31.03.2020 Audited (Refer note No. 2)	Year Ended 31st March 2021 Audited	Year Ended 31st March 2020 Audited	Quarter ended 31.03.2021 Audited (Refer note No. 2)	Quarter ended 31.12.2020 Unaudited	Quarter ended 31.03.2020 Audited (Refer note No. 2)	Year Ended 31st March 2021 Audited	Year Ended 31st March 2020 Audited
1	Total Income from Operations	2,264.88	2,330.81	1,572.38	8,963.11	7,012.93	2,329.77	2,250.98	1,608.02	9,029.19	7,002.12
2	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)-from Continuing Operation	15.20	10.94	(101.74)	34.94	(221.82)	(50.51)	(2.65)	(127.01)	(55.32)	(299.96)
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)- from Discontinued Operation	-	-	(366.48)	-	(359.94)	-	-	(366.48)	-	(359.94)
4	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)-from Continuing Operation	6.87	14.35	(36.74)	27.53	(156.82)	(59.76)	1.94	(62.04)	(63.79)	(236.56)
5	Net Profit/(Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)- from Discontinued Operation	-	-	(266.34)	-	(259.80)	-	-	(266.34)	-	(259.80)
6	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit/(Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	8.85	14.35	(22.66)	29.51	(136.20)	(39.37)	(42.23)	(37.53)	(88.08)	(219.30)
7	Paid-up equity share capital (Face value Rs. 10/- each)	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48	1,025.48
8	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	-	-	-	3,781.78	3,752.27	-	-	-	3,346.25	3,434.35
9	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each)-from Continuing Operation	0.07	0.14	(0.36)	0.27	(1.53)	(0.58)	0.02	(0.61)	(0.62)	(2.31)
	(a) Basic (Rs.)	0.07	0.14	(0.36)	0.27	(1.53)	(0.58)	0.02	(0.61)	(0.62)	(2.31)
	(b) Diluted (Rs.)	0.07	0.14	(0.36)	0.27	(1.53)	(0.58)	0.02	(0.61)	(0.62)	(2.31)
10	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each)-from Discontinued Operation	-	-	(2.60)	-	(2.53)	-	-	(2.60)	-	(2.53)
	(a) Basic (Rs.)	-	-	(2.60)	-	(2.53)	-	-	(2.60)	-	(2.53)
	(b) Diluted (Rs.)	-	-	(2.60)	-	(2.53)	-	-	(2.60)	-	(2.53)
11	Earnings Per Share (after extraordinary items) (of Rs. 10/- each)	0.07	0.14	(2.96)	0.27	(4.06)	(0.58)	0.02	(3.20)	(0.62)	(4.84)
	(a) Basic (Rs.)	0.07	0.14	(2.96)	0.27	(4.06)	(0.58)	0.02	(3.20)	(0.62)	(4.84)
	(b) Diluted (Rs.)	0.07	0.14	(2.96)	0.27	(4.06)	(0.58)	0.02	(3.20)	(0.62)	(4.84)

Notes:

- COVID - 19 pandemic has caused serious disruption on the global economic and business environment. There is a huge uncertainty with regard to its impact which cannot be reasonably determined at this stage. However, the Company has evaluated and considered to the extent possible the likely impact that may arise from COVID-19 pandemic as well as all event and circumstances upto the date of approval of these Financial Results on the carrying value of its assets and liabilities as on 31.3.2021. Based on the current indicators of future economic conditions, the Company estimates to recover the carrying amount of these assets. The Company has adequate liquidity to discharge its obligations. These estimates are subject to uncertainty and may be affected by the severity and duration of the pandemic. The Company is continuously monitoring any material changes in future economic conditions.
- The figures for the quarter ended March 31, 2021 and March 31, 2020 are the balancing figures between audited figures for the full financial year and the published year to date figures for the nine months ended.
- The figures for the previous periods have been regrouped/ rearranged, wherever considered necessary, to conform current period classifications.
- The above results were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors in their respective meetings held on June 15, 2021.

Place : New Delhi
Date : 15.06.2021

Anil Khaitan
Chairman Cum Managing Director
DIN 00759951

WESTERN RAILWAY
MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
Notice No.: S/III/ADVT/June-2021 dt. 10/06/2021
INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PURCHASING DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES IN RUNNING CONDITIONS

41 Nos. ALCO BG mainline diesel locomotives have been become surplus on Rattlam & Vatva Diesel sheds of Western Railway. These locomotives are more than 23 years old and in running conditions. The Principal Chief of Material Manager, Churchgate, Western Railway invites "Expression of Interest" (EOI) from prospective purchasers for purchase of these locomotives. For any queries, please contact Deputy Chief Materials Manager/Sales, Churchgate, Western Railway, Mumbai - 400020 on any working days (Monday - Friday) between 10.30 AM to 3.30 PM. (Contact No. 091 - 9004490762 / 9004490766). The response may be submitted in envelope subscribed "EOI for Purchasing Diesel Locomotives in Running Conditions" or (Email may also be sent on dymcmelccg@gmail.com) to the address mentioned below by latest date 30/06/2021. Address: Deputy Chief Materials Manager (DY. CMM)/Sales, Office of PCMM, 4th Floor, Churchgate Station Building, Churchgate, Mumbai - 400020. 0187

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H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No. U40101UR2001SGC025866, Website: www.ujvn.com

Ro.No.- 439 "e" Tender Notice Dated- 15.06.2021

Office of the Dy. General Manager (E&M Design-I), Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:
Tender No.: 01/DGM(E&M DESIGN-I)/2021-22/ISMS
Name of the Work/Supply/Services: CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR "IMPLEMENTATION OF ISO 27001:2013 (ISMS) AT DEHRADUN OFFICES OF UJVN LTD., TO MAKE THEM ISO 27001:2013 (ISMS) CERTIFIED"
Estimated cost: Rs. 8.14 Lac + Taxes (EXTRA)
Date of availability of bid document on website: 17.06.2021
Last date for submission of bids on website: 20.07.2021 (upto 17:00 hrs.)
For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in> Dy.G.M. (E&M Design-I)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice
Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

NIT No.	221-S/4/2/WR/R/JHI-JHL(2020)/ML-4
Name of Work and its location	Tender for "Washing of Linen i.e. Bed sheets, Quilt cover, Pillow covers and Woolen blankets at Running Room Jind & Jakhal under respective Sr. Crew Controller for the period of three years from date of execution."
Approx. Cost of work	₹17,60,375/- (Seventeen lakh Sixty thousand Three hundred seven five only) + GST as applicable
Earnest Money	₹35,200/-
Completion period of work	Three years i.e. 36 months from the date of execution of work
Cost of Tender Document	₹2360/- (including GST@ 18%)
Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender	Upto 11:00 hrs. on 13.07.2021 Opening of tender at 11:00 hrs. on 13.07.2021
Website particulars notice board location	Above tender is available on complete details of tender can be seen IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in
No. 221-S/4/2/WR/R/JHI-JHL(2020)/ML-4 Dated: 15.06.2021	1311/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

HYBRID IS THE WAY FORWARD

A well-crafted solution can reduce the cost of learning substantially and also help to overcome problem of faculty shortage, says DR DEBASIS SANYAL

The education ecosystem has been going through major transformation for quite some time. Virtual education platforms have been making good inroads. It's not only complementing and supplementing classroom teaching, it independently has become an important platform for synchronise and asynchronies learning across wide range of users, from primary to higher education and training. This transformation is primarily due to (a) experimentation in virtual learning space and (b) change in demographic profile.

After 2007-08, Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) became popular and many thought MOOCs will replace physical class room learning to a great extent. That did not happen though many of these courses have extremely rich content. The failure of MOOCs courses to maintain connect and excitement with the users over a sustained period have being held as the primary reasons behind the limited success.

Most students, after going through some initial modules, lost interest. Further users were less committed as it was free to those who did not opt for certificate or degree.

Things have changed with advent of AI, ML and other exponential technology. Continued experimentations in recent years have made learning using virtual platform more interactive, simple, flexible, easy to comprehend and cost effective. Disregarding age the

asynchronies learning modes have become very popular, from primary to higher education and training. As these modes also helps self-learners in problem solving and creative solutions, people are less dependent on physical sessions. Many short term physical training needs have thus reduced.

The new generations, Y and beyond, are much more technology savvy and also very independent in their thinking and behaviour. They demand more flexibility. Virtual learning platforms, specially asynchronies mode fits well to their behavioural framework.

These platforms, supported by AI, ML and other emerging technology helps users to get answer to their queries instantly. It allows users to go back and forth while they are learning, providing both fast and slow learners the much needed flexibility.

Education institutions by and large are involved in three things; transfer of knowledge, peer to peer learning, and teacher-student one to one knowledge transfer.

A significant part of 'transfer of knowledge' aspect will move to digital platform, specially in higher education. In primary and tertiary too synchronise and asynchronies learning will keep becoming more popular as it provides the much needed flexibility. It fits perfectly to the desire of the new generation to learn 'at any time' and 'at one pace'. Popularity of BYJU, Unacademy are cases in point.

“COVID HAS ACTED AS CATALYST. IT FORCED EVERYONE TO SWITCH FROM PHYSICAL CLASSROOM TEACHING TO ONLINE OVERNIGHT. RELUCTANT STUDENTS AND TEACHERS SWITCHED TO VIRTUAL PLATFORM, QUICKLY ADOPTED AND STARTED APPRECIATING CERTAIN VALUES OF E-EDUCATION”

However, peer to peer learning, which significantly contributes towards enhancing soft skills (team spirit, conflict resolution, leadership skills, etc.) will require physical contact. 'One to one interaction' between faculty and student, that helps in creative solutions and research outcome, will also need physical connect, though some part will take place online.

NEP 2020 envisage growth from 26 per cent to 50 per cent in Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education. India have around 40,000 "brick-and-mortar" institution imparting undergraduate education. To double GER, a very layman calculation suggests establishing 40000 more undergraduate institutions! One may argue, that we could encourage existing institutions to expand, but would that extend our reach to every remote place across the country!

Land, faculty, finance and other resources to build required infrastructure, is fraught with challenges. India must use digital technologies to completely revolutionise traditional education content and delivery process. Going forward, we have to implement tech driven learning environment. Meaningful, innovative hybrid learning solutions of learning is what students will look forward.

For better learning and research, institutions will surely thrive to explore meaningful blend of digital and physical learning synergy. A well

crafted hybrid- solution can reduce the cost of learning substantially and also help to overcome the problem of faculty shortage. Policy makers and institutions will see the merit of reducing, say engineering programme, from four years of physical contact sessions to three years by allowing students to complete the theoretical core courses online thereby reducing cost of imparting education. Many experimentation is already happening. We will experience more creative solution coming up. These solutions will go a long way in bringing into the learning ambit several more deprived students and at a much lower cost.

COVID acted as catalyst. It forced everyone to switch from physical classroom teaching to online teaching overnight. Reluctant students and teachers switched to virtual platform, quickly adopted and started appreciating certain values of online teaching and learning.

Thus, post-COVID will surely see a hybrid environment of coexistence of physical and virtual teaching learning platforms, reinforcing one another, to provide quality education and making learning more enjoyable. Thus traditional universities will have to transform into new kinds of entities, optimise their existing operations in a search to increased capability to impart quality education also and to achieve NEP target.

The writer is Director, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurugram

QUOTE OF THE DAY
The secret of getting ahead is getting started. The secret of getting started is breaking your complex overwhelming tasks into small manageable tasks, and then starting on the first one.
 — Mark Twain

Online crossword challenge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 With cities across the country making a determined fight-back in the face of COVID-19 and the resulting lockdown, it was time to celebrate the indomitable human spirit. To mark a determined progress on the way to normalcy and pay tribute to the resilience of the human mind, an online crossword challenge was organised on June 13, 2021 at Patna.

The contest was divided into two categories — Student Category and Open Category. The event was conducted by Extra-C, a civil society initiative based in Patna.

Chief Operating Officer of Extra-C Amitabh Ranjan said the contest was hosted for an hour on the website www.crypticsingh.com and student category allowed students from schools and institutes of higher education to participate while the Open Category with a higher level of difficulty was opened to seniors.

Ramki Krishnan stood first in the Open Category and Aditya Vasu topped the Student Category. Col Deepak Gopinath (ret'd) took the first position among senior players in the

Open Category. Madhup Tiwari and Shahswat Salgaokar took the second and the third positions, respectively, in the Open Category. N Rengaswamy and Rahmat Ali stood second and third respectively among ACAD Senior contestants.

Christened EXACT (Extra-C Anniversary EXACT Test), the contest was held to mark the collective fight against COVID-19 and herald a movement towards normalcy post-lockdown. The event also marked the eighth anniversary of Extra-C, a civil society initiative at the forefront of providing learning-based fun activities.

Ranjan said many central and State school boards have collaborated with the organisation for promoting the mind game in schools affiliated to them.

Extra-C has an understanding with Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS) and Bihar School Examination Board (BSEB) for conducting crossword skill enhancing events among their students. Schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education and Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan too have been part of the events organised by Extra-C.

PhD programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI
 Mahindra University, Hyderabad, announces the launch of its Fall intake for admission to its PhD Programme in Engineering, Applied Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences for the 2021 academic session. The last date for submission of applications for admission is June 30, 2021, for the September-October, 2021 session. The details of the full time PhD programme, qualifications, experience, etc., are available on the website: <https://www.mahindraaerocelecentrale.edu.in/programs/phd>. Full-time PhD scholars will get an assistantship of ₹25,000 per month plus free boarding and lodging in the MU campus. They will have to mandatorily perform Teaching Assistantship of eight hours a week.



Up your English speaking game

While planning for the upcoming admissions, students must note key requirements to get into the university of their choice, one of which is an English-language test, says SRIKANT GOPAL

While the global pandemic may have temporarily dampened the spirits of students to pursue an education abroad, 2021 has brought a beacon of hope for all. With the recent rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine and lifting of international travel restrictions, as life steadily tends back toward normalcy, so does the optimism of students.

Every year, hundreds of thousands of Indian students apply for prestigious universities in countries like the United States, the UK, Canada and Australia. In addition, countries like New Zealand, Germany, Singapore and other destinations in Europe and Asia are fast becoming attractive education destinations for students.

While planning for the upcoming 2021 admissions cycle, students must note key requirements to get into the university of their choice, one of which is an English-language test. One important consideration for students when deciding which test to take is the global acceptability and reputation of the test, which enables them to pursue a variety of different opportunities in India and across the globe.

For over 55 years, the TOEFL® programme at ETS has pioneered new ways to assess English-language proficiency. The TOEFL

iBT® test is well-received and accepted by more than 11,000 institutions in over 150 countries because of its longstanding reputation in providing them with valid, accurate and reliable measures of English-language proficiency. The test enables students to exemplify their ability to succeed in an English-language environment and improves the overall candidature of the test-taker to get into their university of choice.

Confidence and success in English lends to more academic prospects which leads to a world of opportunity for furthering one's career at home or abroad.

The TOEFL iBT test is universally accepted in English speaking countries like the United States, Canada, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and the UK, and also universally by English-taught programmes at universities in non-English speaking countries. Some distinguished institutions — including Stanford University's graduate programs, University of Washington's graduate programs and Columbia Law School — only accept TOEFL scores as proof of English-language proficiency.

Institutions around the world rely on and prefer the TOEFL iBT test because it is specifically designed for the higher education

sector. The test comprises of 100 per cent academic content, meaning the types of questions students will encounter on test day simulate the communication experiences they will encounter at university (e.g., listening to a lecture, writing and supporting an opinion on a given topic, etc.). Therefore, once students arrive on campus, they can be assured that the skills they have learned and proven will set them up for success.

Students have the option to take the TOEFL iBT test in one of the hundreds of third-party test centres across India, or from the comfort of home, through the TOEFL iBT Home Edition. The tests are identical, aside from testing location, therefore students are encouraged to select the option that is most convenient and allows them to do their best.

The pandemic has created a new world bound by frequent changes where we must time and again adjust to a "new normal." It has disrupted education in a way we've never seen before. Nevertheless, there remains an ever-growing interest in pursuing university studies both abroad and at home for which the test is a gateway to immense opportunities.

The writer is Executive Director, TOEFL Program, ETS

Unlock new opportunities

The HR functions look pretty simple on the outside but in actuality it does not end with the recruitment of a candidate. A whole lot of work begins after the recruitment of an employee like on-boarding, resource allocation, resource management, compensation & benefits, performance management, promotions, employee engagement, and motivating strategies. All these tasks look and sound easy but are the opposites when performed at the organisational level and hence SAP HCM is the most widely used software across industries to streamline the HR processes.

SAP HR records all the data of an employee in an organisation from date of joining to date of leaving and stores all the important employee data such as designation, role, address, salary details, and more; thereby simplifying the HR's job. Owing to this, there is a huge demand for professionals with a degree or a certification in HR centric courses, with SAP HR or SAP HCM being one of them.

While there are multiple options available for the pursuit, here is a guide to make your choice a little simpler and quicker. The top five Online Certification Course for SAP HR.

Henry Harvin: The SAP HR course also known as Human Capital Management (HCM) offered by India's leading Ed-tech company — Henry Harvin takes you through the modules such as Personnel Administration (P1), Organisational Management (OM), Time Payroll, Time Management, Recruitment, Training and Event Management, and Travel Management.

This nine in one course is spread across 44 hours of live online interactive classroom sessions followed by regular bootcamps spread over the next 12 months and facilities to gain experience in organisational and time management, personal administration, payroll, travel management, and more. On successful completion, the participants are awarded a completion certificate by Henry Harvin.

SevenMentor: Unlock new professional career opportunities with SevenMentor Online SAP HR Training which also provides in-depth knowledge of SAP HR (HCM). It provides the opportunity to learn new skills through interactive discussion and experiential learning which pushes one's thinking and gives the chance to put what you are learning into practice.

Spanning over a duration of 90 to 110 hours, the course covers modules which are vital when it comes to analysing the performance of the HR functions for the organisation taught by professional trainers.

iClass Training: iClass Training provides real-time and placement focused SAP HR training in India which includes both the basic and the advanced level. The content of the course is thoughtfully compiled as per the student's requirements to achieve their career goals. By undertaking this course by iClass Training, the applicant will learn sap HR module introduction, Organisational Structure, Enterprise Structure, Organisational Management, Recruitment, Personnel Administration, Time

Management, Payroll, Personnel Development, Training & Event Management, SAP HR real time project and SAP HR placement training.

This tailor-made course is delivered by certified experts and experienced working professionals with hands on real time multiple SAP HR projects knowledge and is split over day time classes, weekend training classes, evening batch classes and fast track training classes.

Grey Campus: SAP Human Resources (HR) has been designed and developed for managing people in a business organisation. In this course, one gains complete knowledge on all the modules of SAP HR, such as payroll and time management. These modules are used for generating and managing payrolls and managing time for time-sensitive jobs.

The primary objective of this Instructor-led Live Online Training is to help the aspirants in building SAP HR/HCM skills. Delivered by 100+ certified experts and professionals, this course gives one year access to class recordings to all the participants; thereby nurturing their skills for their dream jobs.

Multisoft Virtual Academy: SAP ERP-HR online training by Multisoft Virtual Academy acquaints participants with the capabilities and functionalities of SAP ERP software for managing human resource activities. After introducing candidates to the Enterprise Resource Planning concept and the SAP® software package, learners go on to understand the various HR phases and how these are facilitated with the software.

Bridging the networking gap

SRM Institute of Science and Technology (SRMIST) has been providing a base for several of its students in starting unicorns or becoming entrepreneurs. The universities' students have been contributing towards the betterment of the society in an efficient, tech-savvy, and user-friendly way.

Taking this a notch higher, Ragul Ramachandran Uthama Singh (2017 graduate) from Electronics and Instrumentation Department, SRMIST, has made and launched a start-up application called Livathon. This app has been receiving a lot of appreciation from many celebrities and reputed personnel.

The Chennai-based led began working on his application after completing his Masters in Business Management from



Ragul Ramachandran Uthama Singh

diary-like blogging platform that serves as a digital profile/background of the user. Like social media users can blog, share photographs, and message users within the platform.

"The application will be ideal for aspiring artists, sportsmen, charity organisations, especially for people who have a passion for a particular subject such as music, writing, sports, arts, technology, etc. Such people can find and interact with like-minded people in the same locality to network," explains Singh.

Users can blog, share photographs about their passion/interest, and network with like-minded people to form a dance crew, a sports team, a running/cycling club, or just share ideas based on their interest.

Singh was inspired to create such an app during his master's programme. "I was told to come up with an idea for a start-up for my entrepreneurship management module. That is when I developed an app called a digital diary — a platform to record the thoughts of a user and share them with their family. This inspired me to develop Livathon diaries."

The ideation, patent, user interface, market research, and marketing are entirely handled by Singh while the technical side of the application is handled by an app development company called Trident Solutions, Chennai.

Singh's app has crossed over 2500 active users on the application so far within five months of its release on Playstore and App store. His app can be downloaded at <https://t.co/Bhs7ocsp57?amp=1>.



EMPOWER YOUR FUTURE

The growth of the tech-market is fuelled by data. The demand is high yet there are few professionals. Pursuing data and privacy is lucrative, says ATINDRIYA CHAKROBARTY

When it comes to most careers, the old ways of doing things crumbled rapidly ever since the pandemic set in. However, newer avenues have emerged equally rapidly. A host of new-age, off the beaten track and yet promising and lucrative career-opportunities have sprung up.

The pandemic made sectors like e-commerce, Software-as-a-Service (SaaS), artificial intelligence, ed-tech, agri-tech, Fintech, digital media, block chain achieve growth numbers in a year that was expected in a decade.

Success-stories of tech-giants during the pandemic are well known, as are stories of teenage crypto-millionaires. The start-up ecosystem is thriving and growing faster than ever.

Emerging technology is no doubt the most exciting area of work and career growth today. But what if you are not a techie? Do you have any future in these industries if you are a lawyer, administrator, corporate secretary or compliance expert? Here's a new area of work — Data and privacy.

This stellar growth of the tech-market is fuelled by data. Hence

the saying — Data is the new oil!

Opportunity-wise, data protection and privacy management professionals today are placed in a sweet spot. It is a time when the demand is high and growing massively, yet the supply is almost non-existent. This portends well for those who want to pursue data and privacy as a career.

How does one prepare themselves for a career in data and privacy management? What qualification will you need?

Until recently, there were no professional courses dedicated to focussed skill-building and knowledge-development on data protection and privacy management. This is the gap that the Swiss School of Management, a leading business school in Europe and LawSikho, a leading legal edtech company stepped in to plug.

The 15-month MBA degree with a specialisation in data protection and privacy management has the Quality Certification label accreditation of the Swiss Federal Government. It is also fully accredited by IACBE, CHEA and the Department of Veterans Affairs, USA.

For working professionals, the biggest advantage of 15-month MBA course is that they can keep working. At the end, students will be able to work with teams like data protection & privacy and legal, regulatory to name a few

The course provides 24/7 access to learning through a learning management system, provides live online classes and doubt-clearing sessions with convenient timings for professionals, practical simulation based training, industry-projects, case-studies and MCQ-based conceptual and scenario-oriented training.

To get the degree, a student must submit a project, thesis or business plan. The degree is granted to participants who achieve 90 European Credit Transfer System, where 25 learning hours correspond to 1 ECTS credit point.

Unlike the regular two-year MBA courses, this primarily-online MBA course is only 15 months long, though it can be completed within 30 months. The course is intensive and meets the highest standards of business studies as is evident from the various global accreditations.

For working professionals, the biggest advantage is that they can complete this MBA course without having to abandon other professional and personal responsibilities. At the end of this course, students will be able to work with

teams like data protection & privacy, legal, regulatory, compliance, policy, business expansion, strategy, and operations. It would also be possible to pursue careers in marketing, sales and general management. They will also become able to handle data and privacy clients independently and remotely, on a freelance basis. Remote freelance work is an amazing opportunity for data & privacy professionals.

Empowering students through support on accessing client and recruitment opportunities with focus on tech, managerial, legal and business roles for start-ups and teaching how to secure remote freelance work is already embedded with the course plan. What's more, there's an opportunity to visit the SSM campus in Rome and interact with the industry in Italy and The Netherlands.

The course-fee is Euros 13,510. LawSikho and SSM has provided scholarships to 50 students so far and would offer more scholarships in the future based on a scholarship test.

The writer is Senior Associate, Marketing & Content, LawSikho

'Believe you can be successful'

In modern workplace, professionalism is must for positive attitude towards work and to climb corporate ladder, says DR AKHIL SHAHANI

Developing the right attitude towards your work can make a critical difference to your chances of success. It can help you deal with challenging circumstances, committing to professional goals, and in improving overall performance. The right attitude helps develop professionalism, which also helps in rising through the ranks in any organisation. As you move up to senior roles, it can be critical in managing your workload and in developing people management skills. Below are some ways to develop the right attitude at work.

Self-belief: People will not believe in you if you do not believe in yourself. So, before attempting to convince others, you must have faith in your own abilities. Self-belief leads one to seek avenues for self-improvement. Above all, believe that you have the ability to be successful. For those of us who find ourselves doubting our abilities, it can sometimes help to fake this same self-belief! When faced with doubt, try to develop a counter belief that stresses on self-abilities and success.

Be self-reliant: Always remember that no one owes you anything, especially success. The responsibility for your self-growth and improvement lies with yourself. Seek avenues for self-improvement and advancement, while developing positivity towards your work. Avoid complaining or using a negative vocabulary when assessing your work. That said, do not hesitate to accept help or in helping others.

Commit to your goals: Setbacks are part of life and an inevitable part of any professional's journey. The only way to deal with such challenges is to commit to your goals despite the occasional roadblock which comes your way. As the saying goes: 'The road to success is paved with failure. Once you start seeing setbacks as temporary, the path to your goal will seem clearer and inevitable.'

Focus on your work: For a professional, the work comes above all else. There can be many distractions, from social media to other disruptions. When faced with such disruptions, it is important to prioritise your work and develop a single-minded approach



Dr Akhil Shahani
MD, Thadomal Shahani Centre for Management, Shahani Group

towards your goal.

You are likely to finish your tasks with higher efficiency with optimum utilisation of your time. However, you must also keep time for family or other social commitments. A balanced approach is the healthiest way to treat your work and personal life.

Continuous learning: Learning is a continuous process that must go on irrespective of age or rank. Adopt a mindset of learning something new every day. In this volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity world, skills and knowledge that you developed in the past quickly can get obsolete in a very short time. **Collaborate with others:** Workplace collaboration is not just important for a smooth workflow, it is also necessary for your own development. Collaborating with others will help you develop a network. It raises your goodwill, which may come in handy later when you need someone's help. In a senior position, smart collaboration will also help you to work more efficiently and ensure your team's overall development.

In a globally connected world of humans and technology, every person has access to connect, communicate, collaborate and contribute to make the world a better place. At present, there is evidence that any new experience in any new country can certainly add value to the person's attitudes, perceptions and behaviors.

Every new experience broadens their perspectives and opens up a new world of possibilities. Notwithstanding the present challenges posed by the pandemic, the world is still full of possibilities and opportunities for the global adventurer. This concept is even more relevant when management and business students get exposed to global experiences.

When corporations across the world are connected, they look for professionals who understand these cultural, business, economic and political nuances. The way businesses are done in different geographies is influenced by the culture, language, traditions and unique practices of that region. An exposure to these subtleties can certainly enhance one's efficacy in dealing with these location-specific practices.

A multi-country, multicultural exposure can provide practical insights to the students regarding human interactions, become more open-minded and have a better understanding of other perspectives. It can also help in enhancing interpersonal skills such as communication, listening and

MINDIT

empathy.

Case studies of successful global managers clearly validate that professionals and managers with global exposure and experience tend to appreciate different cultures and different points of view and are more successful in creating conducive work environments where people can work in mutual collaboration and understanding. A fascinating study done by Cornell University validates the concept that exposure to multiple global cultures actually enhances one's problem-solving skills. Three

categories of people were chosen for this interesting experiment: one group that had lived its entire lifetime in one country, a second group that had a two-country exposure and a third group that had experiences in multiple countries.

All three groups were given the same problem — Dunker Candle Problem. The results were astounding, the group with the multi-country exposure was faster with their solutions in comparison to the other groups, validating that a multi-country exposure certainly helps enhance one's creativity and

problem-solving skills.

Corporates are continuously looking for relevant and qualified professionals who can be successful in any global environment. With more global exposure, these professionals have the ability to enhance their skills of adaptability and critical thinking. Global work can be understood as professionals working across different cultures, geographies and markets. This means that these professionals are dealing with the changing context of the environment and the stakeholders, resulting in ambiguity and complexity.

This poses unique challenges and can be addressed by a combination of 21st Century intelligences including global and

cultural intelligence, which is only possible when students are given an exposure to different international experiences.

The world today needs leaders and managers who can effectively lead across borders with unique skills to understand different cultures and work with openness and empathy, embrace diversity and plurality and accept inclusiveness. This calls for a global mindset which can help students who are exposed to global practices, appreciate, adapt and address different business challenges in different global and cultural environments.

The writer is Dr Christopher Abraham CEO-head, Dubai Campus, SP Jain School of Global Management



The Pearl Academy has announced scholarships for the children of COVID frontline warriors, teachers and those who have unfortunately lost their primary earning member due to COVID-19.

This scholarship programme is applicable to both, existing and new students. A 100% scholarship on all-inclusive fee will be provided to the wards of an individual who lost his/her life due to COVID-19 and was the sole breadwinner of the family.

A 20% scholarship on one year tuition fee will be offered to the wards of COVID frontline warriors (doctors, nurses, employees of municipal bodies, military, para-military, police etc). To extend gratitude to teachers for their relentless efforts throughout the pandemic, a 20% scholarship on one year tuition fee has been announced for the wards of teachers.

For eligibility criteria and guidelines, visit: <https://pearlacademy.com/admissions/dates-and-guidelines/>

For more information visit: <https://pearlacademy.com/covid-19-response/we-care-covid-scholarships/>

The Clark College, US invites applications for its

foundation grants to support well-qualified international students in their studies at the college.

Students who hold a minimum GPA of 2.5 are eligible to receive this award. The programme is open to both international and USA students.

Eligibility: The applicants are required to be enrolled and accepted by the college.

The applicants must be commencing their academic year in 2021.

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

Letters of recommendation, Resume, All academic transcripts, Writing samples

Admission requirements: Students are required to score a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 to be admitted into any programme at Clark College.

Language Requirement: The applicants are required to attain minimum scores in the following English language proficiency tests:

TOEFL – 85
IELTS – 6.5

How to Apply: The candidates are required to apply through the college application portal.

The candidates must log in to SmartSelect and apply for the opportunity.

Application deadline: The last date to apply for this award scholarship is November 15, 2021.

DATA ANALYTICS (SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT) AT RUBY CAPITAL

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/e062b8
Application deadline: June 24, 2021

CONTENT MODERATION AT RIZZLE

Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/42d314
Deadline: June 24, 2021

REACTJS DEVELOPMENT AT GOODSPACE

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹15,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/148f06
Deadline: June 24, 2021

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT BRANDS OVER MOON

Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/125ce0
Deadline: June 24, 2021

AUTISM THERAPY & DIAGNOSIS AT COGNIBLE

Location: Ranchi, Delhi, Jodhpur, Latur, Bengaluru, Hyderabad
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/00e21e
Deadline: June 22, 2021

CONTENT WRITING (PUNJABI) AT POLITICAL SAMPARK

Location: Chandigarh, Mohali
Stipend: ₹6,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/379cbcd
Deadline: June 23, 2021

FRESHER JOBS CONTENT & E-COMMERCE MGT TRAINEE AT BLOOPRINT ECOM CONSULTING

Location: Remote
Stipend: ₹3 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/6a4bdf
Deadline: July 9, 2021
Skill(s): MS-Excel, Research and Analytics

INBRIEF

APP THAT HELPS MASTER CONCEPTS

The Tata ClassEdge (TCE) has launched Studi, a direct-to-students learning solution, with a focus on planning, practice and concept mastery. The Studi has been designed to develop independent learners. Therefore, it focuses not just on what to study but how to study.

A key feature is the of the app is its Adaptive Planner.

Milind Shahane, CEO, TCE, said: "How much time should a child spend on a subject? How should he prepare for an upcoming class test? Which topics

does the child need to pay more attention to? Through the Adaptive Planner, we address these questions, and set the child on an efficient study path to achieve his learning goals."

A distinguishing feature is what the app refers to as the Big Idea — it's a short video at the beginning of every chapter that captures the main idea of the whole lesson.

Also, the practice sessions are not just a one-time instance at the end of every topic. They are spaced and repeated after each week so that children retain the concepts thoroughly. In addition to practice, self-tests are provided at periodic intervals to help gauge the confidence level of children at every step.



BENEFITS OF IT CERTIFICATION

The Pearson VUE released Value of IT Certification report which explores why candidates pursue IT certification and provided detailed insight into how certification benefits individuals and employers.

The findings were polled from 29,000 candidates who completed IT certification between November 2019 and October 2020. Key pointers:

- In 2020 IT certification grew

- 16% over the previous year.
- Online test delivery increased by more than 300%. Of the respondents who said that the impact of COVID-19 was a factor in earning a new certification (30%).
- 28% of all the certifications they earned in 2020 were in cloud computing representing a 164% increase (compared to Pearson VUE's previous Value of IT Certification survey).
- 61% of the candidates who

- hoped to advance or be promoted as result of taking their IT certification exams received a promotion by the time they completed the survey.
- Candidates had intrinsic benefits — increased confidence (91%), greater determination to succeed (84%), feeling respected by colleagues (76%), greater job satisfaction (76%), and greater autonomy at work (74%).

VIT-AP VSL teams up with Alpha Partners



The signing ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the VIT-AP School of Law (VSL), VIT-AP University and Alpha Partners, NCR of Delhi was held virtually by VIT-AP University on June 15, 2021.

Dr SV Kota Reddy, Vice-Chancellor of VIT-AP University signed the MoU and addressed the gathering. During his address, he highlighted that the university has committed to create a Centre of Excellence in Cyber Security and Law and other centres of excellence to encourage the research and practical application of law to future legal professionals.

He further added that the centres will work holistically to provide better solutions to the society and to provide legal empowerment to the people. This academic collaboration with Alpha Partners would help students to equip industry and practice ready in the areas of corporate law, commercial law, real estate law, transaction services law, regulatory services law, dispute resolution, intellectual property law, labour and employment laws, compliance and regulatory laws.

Akshat Pande, Founder and Managing Partner, Alpha Partners after

signing MoU said that VSL and Alpha Partners recognise the value of mutual cooperation and are desirous of entering into this MoU to facilitate academic collaboration between the two organisations to promote academic research, capacity building, academic collaborative activities and including student internships and placement activities.

Arvind Moorchung, Sr Consultant, Alpha Partners expressed his gratitude for signing in MoU with the VIT-AP School of Law and said knowledge sharing through exchange of resources between the two institutes, visiting lectures by Alpha Partners, organising research activities of mutual interest, collaborative seminar/webinar series, round-table discussions on contemporary developments of law which are of practical relevance will help students enhance their skills. Capacity-building programmes by providing inputs to law school curriculum, internships to the students, technical training to stakeholders, online professional courses and leadership development programs

Dr CLV Sivakumar, Registrar, VIT-AP University and Dr Benarji Chakka, Dean VIT-AP School of Law, students, faculty members and staff of the university witnessed the MoU ceremony.

No spot for Shardul, Mayank & Sundar in WTC

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Veteran speedster Umesh Yadav pipped Brisbane Test hero Shardul Thakur as the 15th member of the Indian squad that will take on New Zealand in the World Test Championship final starting here on June 18.

Umesh, along with Mohammed Shami, and Hanuma Vihari all of whom got injured during the Australia tour, were back in the 15 that needed to be announced as per ICC squad protocol.

Apart from Shardul, the notable names to miss out were Mayank Agarwal, and Washington Sundar, who were in the playing XI for the Test match against Australia.

England series hero Axar Patel also missed out.

The other big player to have missed out in the final squad is senior batsman KL Rahul, who was in fact Virat Kohli's opposition captain in the team's intra-squad practice game.

Rahul seemed in good touch during the game but a look at the squad will indicate that all those who were first choice during the start of the Australia tour are back in the mix. The Indian team management's policy since Kohli took over has been to honour the first choice players in the squad and even if the reserves do well, it is understood that they get a chance only when a senior player gets injured.

Hence Umesh got preferred over Shardul, who had a half-century and seven wickets in the series winning Brisbane Test against Australia. Ravichandran Ashwin is the

Ball will swing even without saliva: Ishant



PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Senior India speedster Ishant Sharma believes that the ball will swing even without saliva during the World Test Championship final against New Zealand here and somebody from the team will need to maintain it through the match starting June 18.

The 32-year-old, a veteran of 101 Tests, is expected to lead the Indian bowling attack when the team takes on New Zealand in the marquee clash. "I think the ball will swing even without saliva and somebody needs to take responsibility to maintain the ball," Sharma said on Star Sports show 'Cricket Connected'.

"And if the ball is maintained well in these conditions, then it becomes easier for

the bowlers to take wickets in these conditions," he added but did not get into specifics.

Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic last year, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has prohibited bowlers from applying saliva to the ball.

According to Sharma, who has 303 Test wickets to his name, adjusting to lengths is important in England.

"You need to train differently and adapt to the change. In India, you get the reverse swing after some time, but in England, the length is fuller because of the swing.

"So, you have to adjust to the lengths. It is not easy to force that and the weather here is cooler so it takes time to acclimatize to the weather," said Sharma.

"And the quarantine makes it difficult...The way you train in the gym and the training on the ground is very different, so you have to adjust to that and it takes time," he added.

Meanwhile, young India opener Shubman Gill said that to survive in England, the batters need to leave the loose balls.

"When I toured England with India A and the Under-19 team, everyone asked me to play a certain number of balls if I wanted to score runs. "But I feel, your intent to score runs should never go on the back seat and you should look to survive," said the 21-year-old, who has played seven Tests so far.

"When you are looking to score runs, the bowlers get to the back foot and you can put some pressure on the bowler. I think, at times to survive in England you have to leave the loose balls," he added.

one off-spinner and Ravindra Jadeja's return means that there was no place for Axar Patel.

Rahul and Mayank Agarwal are also currently not

in the mix and would be considered only once the team management has given enough chances to both Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill. In case of

Wriddhiman Saha, the ICC rule of being able to replace a wicketkeeper with a substitute keeper was reason for a look-in.



INDIA SQUAD:

Virat Kohli (captain) Shubman Gill, Rohit Sharma, Cheteshwar Pujara Ajinkya Rahane, Rishabh Pant (wk), Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja, Md Shami Jasprit Bumrah, Ishant Sharma, Mohammed Siraj, Wriddhiman Saha (wk), Umesh Yadav, Hanuma Vihari.

'Williamson available to lead NZ in WTC'

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Kane Williamson will be available to lead New Zealand against India in the World Test Championship final, head coach Gary Stead announced on Tuesday as he unveiled a 15-man squad for the marquee clash starting June 18.

Wicket-keeper BJ Watling, who too had missed the second Test due to a back injury, has also been named in the squad.

"Kane and BJ have certainly benefited from their week of rest and rehabilitation and we expect them to be fit and available for the final," Stead said at a press conference after the team's arrival here for the WTC final starting June 18.

"Playing in a World Cup Final is a really special occasion and I know the guys are looking forward to getting into their work here in Southampton," he added.

Stead said their victory over England notwithstanding, it is going to be a tough challenge facing India.

"India are a world class outfit who possess match winners all through their line-up, so we're under no illusion about how tough they will be to beat," he said.

New Zealand will go into the clash with one specialist spinner in 32-year-old left-arm spinner Ajaz Patel and all-rounder Colin de Grandhomme.

Will Young is their specialist batting cover, while Tom Blundell is the back-up wicket-keeper.

"We've gone with Ajaz as our specialist spin-



ner after an impressive outing at Edgbaston and we believe he could be a factor at the Ageas Bowl," Stead said.

"Colin's been an integral member of our Test set-up for many years and it was great to see him return at Lord's after a long injury lay-off.

"He's a proven performer at the top level and we back him to do a job with the bat or the ball if called upon."

"With our squad being reduced, Heinrich and our second physio Vijay Vallabh will return home to New Zealand on June 16, along with Jacob, Rachin and Mitchell. We wish them well and thank them for their efforts," said Stead.

New Zealand Squad: Kane Williamson (C), Tom Blundell, Trent Boult, Devon Conway, Colin de Grandhomme, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, Tom Latham, Henry Nicholls, Ajaz Patel, Tim Southee, Ross Taylor, Neil Wagner BJ Watling and Will Young.

India hold vital point

PTI ■ DOHA

India scored from an own goal by Afghanistan goalie as they ended their World Cup Qualifiers campaign with a 1-1 draw to book a berth in the next qualifying round of the Asian Cup here on Tuesday.

A howler by Afghanistan goalie Ovays Azizi handed India a 1-0 lead in the 75th minute but Hossein Zamani equalised in the 81st minute in a match marred by poor refereeing.

The two sides had also played out a 1-1 draw in the first leg match in Dushanbe in 2019.

It was an open and fast-paced game with the Afghans playing a more physical game in a match strewn with fouls and referee Ali Reda failing to discipline the players. Both sides were almost equal in ball possession and India had 10 shots on target as against seven from Afghanistan. But the Afghans committed 16 fouls as against nine by the Indians. Three Afghan players were shown yellow cards as against one of India.

With seven points from eight matches, India finished third in Group E behind toppers Qatar and Oman, and ahead of Afghanistan.

India under Igor Stimac ended the World Cup qualifying campaign with one win, four draws and three losses. Besides the win against Bangladesh in their previous match, the first leg 0-0 draw against Asian champions Qatar here in 2019 was the highlight of the campaign.

India dominated the early period with captain Sunil Chhetri having a go at the opposition goal in the 10th minute off a pass from Glan Martins but his left-footed shot from a difficult angle was collected by the Afghan goalie.

The Afghans grew in confidence and were the better side in the later part of the first half and they had a few shots on target but none gave any difficulties to Indian custodian Gurpreet Singh.

Five minutes before the breather, Ashique Kuruniyan was on the clear on the top left edge of the box but his low cross failed to reach Chhetri with an Afghan defender clearing it.

Chhetri, who had scored twice against Bangladesh, could not repeat that performance and he was substituted in the 69th minute. Midfield livewire Brandon Fernandes was also replaced in the 62nd minute.

The Afghans looked better early in the second session but India took the lead in the 75th minute.

vedanta
transforming elements

ପବିତ୍ର ଗୀତଳ ଷଷ୍ଠୀ ଭବଲକ୍ଷେ

ପଢ଼ିମ ଡ଼ିଶା ର ସମସ୍ତ ଜନସାଧାରଣଙ୍କୁ ବେଦାନ୍ତ ଲିମିଟେଡ୍, ଝାରସୁଗୁଡ଼ା ତରଫରୁ ଅନେକ ଗୁଡ଼ କାମନା !

Greetings and Best Wishes of Sitalsasthi

State Government has effectively managed the second wave of Covid-19 under the able leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Though the infection rate has drastically come down, still we have to follow Covid-19 appropriate behavior like- social distancing, wearing mask, hand sanitization and would wait for our turn for vaccination.

Let's come forward and build new JHARSUGUDA

Sushree Deepali Das
Narasinha Bishnupriya Seva Trust, Jharsuguda

ପବିତ୍ର ଗୀତଳ ଷଷ୍ଠୀ ଭବଲକ୍ଷେ ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ଦ୍ଵାର୍ଦ୍ଦିକ ଅଭିନନ୍ଦନ

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An ISO 9001, 14001 & OHSAS - 18001 Certified Company

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