

OPINION 6 CORONA ORPHANS: KIDS OF A LESSER GOD

WORLD 8 BIDEN MEET WITH GHANI TO ENSURE AF NEVER AGAIN BECOMES SAFE HAVEN FOR TERRORISTS: WH

AVENUES 10 E-LEARNING HAS POTENTIAL

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No compromise on Article 370, 35A: Gupkar leaders

They say ahead of all-party meet called by Modi on June 24

MOHIT KANDHARI ■ JAMMU

Striking a discordant note ahead of joining the all-party meet convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on June 24, the People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD) on Tuesday announced they will attend the meeting but there can be no compromise on Article 370 and 35A, which granted special status to the erstwhile State of Jammu & Kashmir.

The PAGD leaders, who assembled at the residence of Dr Farooq Abdullah, discussed the contours of the agenda of the June 24 conclave. After the meeting was over, chairman of the PAGD alliance Dr Farooq Abdullah told reporters, "Mehbooba Mufti, Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami, and I will attend the all-party meeting called by the PM. We hope to keep our agenda before the PM and Home Minister".

Dr Abdullah said, "Our stand is clear and all of you know what our stand is. There



National Conference president Farooq Abdullah and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti with other members during a media address after a meeting of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration (PAGD), in Srinagar, on Tuesday

is no need to repeat the same. Since New Delhi has invited the leaders individually, we have decided that all those invited will attend the meeting and put forth their points on J&K." The chief spokesperson of the PAGD and CPI(M) leader Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami said they will not ask for moon during the meeting with the PM. "We will seek

something that is ours and will remain ours," he said. Tarigami said they will go to Delhi and represent the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. "We will put forth the aspirations of people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh in the meeting. Whatever is possible within the Indian constitution is what we are going to seek. We will not put our signature

on their agenda, we will agree to the agenda which is in the interest of the people of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh," said Tarigami. PDP chief Mehbooba said during the meeting with the Prime Minister on Thursday, she will press for the restoration of the special status of Jammu and Kashmir which was "snatched away from us".

53L jabs day after record 86L

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after India recorded a milestone of 86 lakh vaccination in a day, numbers slumped drastically on day two of the implementation of "revised guidelines for Covid-19 jab drive" with just around 53.4 lakh people vaccinated as per the Government data available till 10pm.

According to the Union Health Ministry, on the second day of the new phase of Covid-19 vaccination, more than 53.4 lakh vaccine doses were administered on Tuesday till 10 pm with Uttar Pradesh recording highest single-day vaccine coverage by administering 7.96 lakh doses.

Other States, like Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka, which reported a sharp surge in vaccination on

June 21, showed poor performance on Tuesday.

Since the launch of the nationwide vaccination drive, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have administered first dose to more than 10 lakh beneficiaries of the age group

18-44 years, said a statement from the Government.

Overall, more than 29.35 crore (29,35,04,820) vaccine doses have been provided to States/UTs so far, through the Centre Government of India (free of cost channel) and through direct state procurement category.

More than 2.14 crore (2,14,90,297) Covid vaccine doses are still available with the States/UTs to be adminis-

tered while more than 33,80,590 vaccine doses are in the pipeline and will be received by the States/UTs within the next 3 days, said the Government.



Covaxin shows 77.8% efficacy in phase 3 trials

New Delhi: Bharat Biotech's Covaxin has demonstrated 77.8% efficacy in phase 3 trials, reported ANI quoting sources. The Hyderabad-based firm had earlier submitted the trial data to the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Indian drug regulator. The expert panel has approved the trial data, which was conducted on 25,800 subjects, as per reports.

Delta + prevalent in Maha, Kerala, MP but Covaxin, Covishield effective: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

A day after the WHO said the existing Covid-19 vaccines are showing reduced signs of efficacy against the Delta variant of coronavirus, the Government on Tuesday alerted that the Delta plus variant is prevalent in Maharashtra, Kerala and MP in India and 8 other countries.

However, it asserted that both Covishield and Covaxin are effective against the new mutation. It said it would shortly come out with the extent of their effectiveness.

As a precautionary measure, the Union Health Ministry has issued an advisory to the three State Governments to keep a vigil on the new mutated virus

which is said to be more virulent. Delta plus, also known as AY.1 variant or B.1.617.2.1, is considered to be the most dangerous variant of Covid-19.

Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said at a Press briefing here that India is among the nine countries where the Delta plus mutation of the coronavirus has been found so far. However, he underlined that it is currently a "variant of interest" and has not yet been classified as a "variant of concern".

Of the 22 cases of Delta plus variant of the coronavirus detected in India, 16 have been detected in Maharashtra's Ratnagiri and Jalgaon while others are from parts of Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.

Covid-19 IN INDIA	
TOTAL CASES:	3,00,27,335 (+50,269)
DEATHS:	3,90,652 (+1,320)
RECOVERED:	2,89,85,803 (+67,021)
ACTIVE:	6,39,070
MAHA:	59,87,521 (+8,470)
KERALA:	28,29,461 (+12,617)
K'TAKA:	28,15,029 (+3,709)
TN:	24,36,819 (+6,895)
DELHI:	14,32,778 (+397)

CAPSULE

NEPAL SC QUASHES 20 MINISTERS' APPOINTMENT

Kathmandu: In a major blow to beleaguered Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, the Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that the appointment of 20 Ministers by him was unconstitutional, invalidating his two recent Cabinet expansions after the dissolution of the House of Representatives. **P8**

BJP'S SILENCE HURTS, SAYS CHIRAG PASWAN

New Delhi: "Hurt" at the BJP's silence while he battles challenges from within his party, Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) leader Chirag Paswan said on Tuesday his relations with the saffron party cannot remain "one-sided" and he will consider all possibilities as his future political steps if attempts to corner him continue.

BJP MP SEEKS NUSRAT'S LS DISQUALIFICATION

Badaun: BJP's Badaun MP Sanghamitra Maurya has written to the Lok Sabha speaker, demanding disqualification of TMC MP Nusrat Jahan for allegedly giving a false affidavit over her marital status to Parliament.

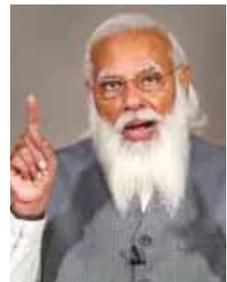
Centre-State 'bhagidari' helped States raise extra ₹1.06L cr in 2020-21: Modi

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

The "successful Centre-State bhagidari", said the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday, has helped States raise an extra ₹1.06 lakh crore in 2020-21 and this, he said, happened despite the challenges thrown by Covid-19 pandemic. States were able to raise an extra ₹1.06 lakh crore in 2020-21 by implementing a set of reforms that allowed them to borrow more from the Centre, Modi said in a blog titled "Reforms by Conviction and Incentives".

He wrote in his blog that 23 States availed of additional borrowings of ₹1.06 lakh crore out of a potential ₹2.14 lakh crore. "This significant increase in availability of resources was made possible by an approach of Centre-State bhagidari," he wrote.

The Prime Minister said the Covid-19 pandemic has come with a whole new set of challenges to Governments



across the world in terms of policy-making. India is no exception. Raising enough resources for public welfare while ensuring sustainability is proving to be one of the biggest challenges, he said.

"In this backdrop of the financial crunch seen across the world, do you know that Indian States were able to borrow significantly more in 2020-21?" Modi sought to say.

"When we formulated our economic response to the

Covid-19 pandemic, we wanted to ensure that our solutions do not follow a 'one size fits all' model. For a federal country of continental dimensions, finding policy instruments at the national level to promote reforms by State Governments is indeed challenging. But, we had faith in the robustness of our federal polity and we moved ahead in the spirit of Centre-State bhagidari," Modi wrote detailing the said "bhagidari" and highlighted some paragraphs in his blog.

"In May 2020, as part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat package, the Government of India announced that State Governments would be allowed enhanced borrowing for 2020-21. An extra 2 per cent of GSDP was allowed, of which 1 per cent was made conditional on the implementation of certain economic reforms," said the Prime Minister.

Modi said this nudge for reform is rare in Indian public finance.

SC refuses to interfere with Class XII assessment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday refused to interfere with the assessment scheme propounded by both the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) and the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) for evaluation of Class 12 students, whose board examinations have been cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The top court rejected the objections raised by a parents' body as well as students and said that it is not possible to have a second guess approach with regard to various aspects of the assessment scheme.

A special bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar and Dinesh Maheshwari said, "We accept the scheme as propounded by both the boards — CBSE and CISCE".

No more flash sales

Discount sales on e-commerce sites fine as it benefits consumers: Govt

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Putting aside apprehensions over the seasonal discount offers, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs on Tuesday made it clear that discount sales that benefit consumers will continue but flash sales that seek to exploit market would be hit under the proposed amendments to the Consumer Protection (e-commerce) Rules, 2020, on which the Government has sought public comments by July 6.

Ministry's Additional Secretary Nidhi Khare on Tuesday made it clear that the Ministry "will not regulate" the trade on e-commerce platforms. And the e-commerce players need not be anxious about the proposed changes in the rules. "We will take action on fraudulent flash sales if we receive any complaints or



CCPA (Central Consumer Protection Authority) can take suo motu cognizance," she said.

Khare added that the Government will not seek disclosure of flash sales from e-commerce players to regulate the fraudulent sale of goods and services but will take appropriate action as per the law on consumer complaints. "We are not going to seek disclosure of flash sales. We are with sales that benefit maximum consumers. If someone wants to complain, there should at least be a provision," Khare said.

B'deshi girl forced into flesh trade rescued

PNS ■ JAIPUR

A 23-year-old Bangladeshi girl was rescued in Jaipur district on Tuesday after she was trafficked and forced into prostitution. Acting on a tipoff, police raided a rented house at Jaraka under Dharmasala police station and rescued her and arrested one Suraj Das (25).

The girl revealed that she had been brought to India under the pretext of a job, but she was allegedly tortured and forced into prostitution by Suraj Das' father Ajay. The girl was sent to a Government-run shelter home for women at Jaipur town.

The police are investigating the case, said Jaipur SP Rahul PR. Dharmasala police station IIC Saroj Kumar Sahoo said Suraj was produced in court, which later rejected his bail application and remanded him into jail custody. "We are verifying nationality of girl. If it is proved that is from Bangladesh, further steps will be taken as per law," said Jaipur Collector Chakravarti Singh Rathore.

Captain wins trust of party, gets 6 months to fulfil poll promises

Cong panel not happy with open revolt by Sidhu

MONIKA MALIK ■ CHANDIGARH

The Congress' three-member panel constituted to resolve the infighting in Punjab party unit on Tuesday gave Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh virtually six months to keep the promises his party made before the 2017 elections, that were not fulfilled during past four-and-a-half years.

The deadline came during his three-hour-long meeting with the panel, led by Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, Punjab party affairs in-charge Harish Rawat, and former MP JP



Aggarwal. At the same time, the panel also took a strong note of party MLA and former Minister Navjot Singh Sidhu's "two families taking advantage in the State" remarks after "miffed" Chief Minister lodged a strong objection to such statements that too at a time when the efforts are on to resolve the issue.

In fact, senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was also not happy with the former cricketer's latest statements.

State logs lowest 2,957 Covid cases in two months

38 MORE DIE; TOLL MOUNTS TO 3,671; TPR NOW AT 4.7 PER CENT

4,159 RECOVER; TOTAL RECOVERIES 8,48,960

BHUBANESWAR: The Covid-19 positive cases declined below the 3,000-mark to 2,957 in the 30 districts and the State pool in last 24 hours, it was reported on Tuesday. This was a record low over the last two months. With the new cases, the total positives tally increased to 3,671. In last 24 hours, a total of 61,608 samples had been tested and test positivity rate (TPR) stood at 4.7 per cent. Out of new cases 1,698 were from quarantine and 1,259 were local contacts. Besides, 70 cases were reported from State pool. Khordha district again reported daily highest cases at 408 followed by Cuttack with 272, Jajpur 260, Baleswar 247, Puri 219, Bhadrak 192, Mayurbhanj 135,

Kendrapada 116, Nayagarh 112, Angul 110, Jagatsinghpur 103, Rayagada 63, Koraput 60, Sundargarh 58, Keonjhar 57, Malkangiri 56, Kandhamal 51, Boudh 47, Nabarangpur 45, Dhenkanal 42, Bargarh 41, Kalahandi 38, Balangir 37, Sambalpur 28, Subarnapur 25, Gajapati 24, Ganjam 18, Nuapada 10 and Jharsuguda three. However, as many as 38 more patients succumbed to virus in State in last 24 hours, mounting total death toll to 3,671. Khordha district registered maximum six casualties followed by Cuttack and Bargarh with five each, four each in Mayurbhanj and Puri, three in Sambalpur, two each in Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda and Angul and one each in Dhenkanal, Deogarh, Keonjhar, Koraput, Sundargarh and Ganjam. However, another 4,159 patients recovered on day, increasing total recoveries to 8,48,960. **PNS**

339 new infections in BBSR

4 die; 390 recover

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Bhubaneswar on Sunday registered 339 new Covid-19 positive cases, with which the total tally in the city rose to 87,274. This was an increase from the 246 infections reported on Monday. Out of the new cases, 289 were local contacts and 50 were quarantine cases.

The local contacts included 26 cases in Dumduma, 19 in Patia, 13 in Khandagiri, 12 in Chandrasekharpur, 11 in Nayapalli, 10 each in Patrapada and Sailashree Vihar and nine each in Laxmisagar and Niladri Vihar.

Currently, the active cases stood at 1,489 in the city. Meanwhile, four more patients succumbed to the disease in the city on the day, mounting the total death toll to 411. However, 390 persons recovered on the day, increasing the total recoveries to 85,353.

It's not Third Front minus Cong: NCP

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After two and half hours of confabulations among eight Opposition parties over the "need for preparing an alternate vision in the country", their leaders emerged to take great pains in refuting that it was a Third Front, it was a political grouping minus the Congress and its huddle was at the behest of NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

"It is being reported in the media that this meeting of Rashtra Manch was held by Sharad Pawar to unite anti-BJP political parties. This is totally incorrect.

I want to clarify that this meeting took place at Pawar's residence but he didn't call this meeting," NCP leader Majeed Memon told the media after the meeting on Tuesday. Former BJP leaders Yashwant Sinha and Shatrughan Sinha have founded the Rashtra Manch. Memon further said



TMC leader Yashwant Sinha, NCP president Sharad Pawar and other leaders, in New Delhi, on Tuesday

the perception that there is going to be a big Opposition group excluding the Congress is wrong. "It is being said that Pawar is taking a big political step and the Congress has been boycotted.

This is incorrect. There is no political exclusion. We have invited the leaders who subscribe to the ideology of Rashtra Manch in which leaders of all political parties could come. There is no political discrimination. I personally invited Congress members," Memon stressed.

Heavy rains in State till Jun 27

Yellow Warning issued for several districts

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Several parts of the State have been experiencing thunderstorms, rainfall and lightning for the last few days due to the southwest monsoon. These activities are likely to continue till June 27.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) Regional Centre here on Tuesday also issued Yellow Warning for several districts and said heavy rainfall is very likely to occur at one or two places over Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Dhenkanal, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapada and Jajpur districts in next 24 hours.

'Malkangiri DM involved in minor mineral scam'

Cong leader Majhi demands his suspension

Collector terms allegation baseless

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Congress on Tuesday demanded immediate suspension of Malkangiri district Collector Dr YC Vijay and initiate an impartial enquiry into the illegal tender process of the minor mineral sources (Sairats) in the district, failing which the party would lock up the Collector's office.

At a Press conference here, former Nabarangpur MP and OPCC working president Pradeep Majhi alleged that one Ch Venugopal, proprietor of VG Granites situated at village Peta under Motu tehsil is exporting precious granite rocks to China illegally in connivance with Government servants of this district. Recently, he grabbed seven stone quarries with the help of



Collector Dr Vijay in the tender process. As per the prescribed norms, the tehsildar concerned is the competent authority to invite tenders for stone quarries. But this tender in March 2021 was notified from the office of the Collector, Majhi said. This information received through RTI highlights an important fact that tehsildar was not aware of the tender process except putting his signature on the tender notice.

The information revealed that Tehsildar Dr Gunanidhi Nayak was on leave on March 30, 2021, the day the tender boxes were opened. But how Collector wrote in the tender

preceding that Dr Nayak was present on that day and he took his signature on proceedings, Majhi questioned. Majhi alleged that the Collector has received an illegal gratification of Rs 1 crore from Venugopal. In his response, the Collector said the allegations are baseless and he has followed the prescribed tender process.

He said that as there was no security point in the Collectorate, he had taken the tender box to his official residence. Later, the box was kept in treasury as he had to go on leave. On use of a high-priced luxury car, he said that as his vehicle was unusable, he was using a hired vehicle.

RD Dept defers tender process till June-end

In response to contractors' request

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

In view of the restrictions imposed due to Covid-19 situation, the Rural Development Department has postponed all tender process scheduled till June 30. The Engineer-in-Chief, Rural Works, on Monday informed all Superintending Engineers and Exertive Engineers about the decision. The decision was taken by Additional Chief Secretary, Rural Development, PK Jena after receiving a representation from the All Odisha Contractors' Association in this matter.

In view of the lockdown restrictions, the cyber cafes have been closed in many districts. As a result, the contractors are unable to submit tender documents and participate in bidding process. The contractors have been given last chance by extending the bidding time of all tenders until June 30, 2021, with no further extension. Now, the State is under partial lockdown, which will continue till July 1. The Government has divided the 30 districts into two categories based on the infection rate. In 17 districts, mostly in southern and western regions, all shops have been allowed to operate from 6 am to 5 pm.

'Bring Biju Patnaik's old Dakota to Odisha'

Would be a fitting tribute to Guruprasad Mohapatra



ANIL DHIR

BHUBANESWAR: The loss of a friend in adulthood has many meanings. It is the loss of someone with whom you had shared your life, thoughts and activities. We often have friends of our student days whom we hardly meet or speak for years. In 2017, I had met Guruprasad Mohapatra nearly thirty-five years after we had parted ways. We had been together in our college years; he had then gone to Delhi and then joined the administrative services.

I had got snippets of his good work when visiting Gujarat, like the Sabarmati riverfront and the Kankaria lakefront and heritage promotion. Perhaps his best achievement was during his stint as the Municipal Commissioner of Surat, where he was credited for converting the city into one of

the models of urban governance. Our common friend Deboo Patnaik had told me that Guru was now the Chairman of the Airport Authority of India, and that he could help in getting Biju Patnaik's old Dakota from the Kolkata Airport.

Not wanting to let the chance go, both of us went to see him on his next home visit and met him at his house in Sahidnagar. I was meeting him after so many years; but we picked up a conversation as if it had just ended a few months before. Like with many other friends, we shared common memories and experiences.

I still remember him cycling down to my place from his house, taking the small path near the railway lines. He was enthused by the idea of getting the aircraft to Bhubaneswar and immediately rang up the authorities at the Netaji Subash Bose International Airport and told them that I would be visiting to inspect the plane and that all help should be rendered.

I was in Kolkata at the first instance, having informed him earlier of my trip. When I got down from the aircraft, I was surprised to see two AAI officials near the step ladder who identified themselves and told me that a jeep was ready to take

me to the isolation bay where the craft was parked. When we reached the spot, I found that the old Dakota was amidst a thick pool of water, with a lot of vegetation all around and it was difficult to reach it.

I took a good three hours to clear a path to the craft. In the next six months, Guru made sincere efforts to get the Dakota to Bhubaneswar. He repeatedly wrote letters to the Government of Odisha asking them to take the plane.

He was willing to waive all charges and had also agreed to allot a special place in front of the Biju Patnaik International Airport at Bhubaneswar. In fact he had told me that the AAI would also bear the cost of transporting the craft to Bhubaneswar if need be.

He was quite disappointed when no proper response came from the powers that be at Bhubaneswar. In fact, just a few weeks before his term as the Chairman of the AAI was to be over, he told me that the aircraft would soon be scrapped.

Another instance that I recollect which is an indicator of his high level of administrative acumen is when I complained to him about the high rates being charged by the vendors for tea, coffee and snacks inside the airports. I told him that a cup of tea or coffee

was Rs 100 and even the snacks were overpriced. He explained that the high rentals charged by the AAI forced the vendors to keep the prices high.

I explained to him that the vendors would certainly sell many more cups if the prices were decent. He told me to write to him and drop suggestions in the various suggestions boxes kept in the airports.

For the next few months, whenever I would take a flight, I would fill up the suggestion form and made many others do so too. I also sent many mails. One fine day, he rang me up and told me that the AAI was setting up stalls in 15 of the airports managed by them where tea and coffee would be served for Rs 20 and Rs 30 respectively.

A few weeks later I found such a stall at the Pune airport and in later days in many other airports. I took photos and sent it to him, thanking him for his good work.

I think it will be fitting tribute to him if the Dakota is got from the Kolkata Airport and placed at the Biju Patnaik International at Bhubaneswar. Is the Odisha Chief Minister listening?

(Guruprasad Mohapatra, a Gujarat-cadre IAS officer from Odisha, passed away on June 19)

Cong leader Mallick dies of Covid

PNS ■ JAGATSINGHPUR

Veteran Congress leader late Prasad Mallick died of Covid-19 in a private hospital in Bhubaneswar. He was 58. Mallick had joined politics after demise of the father; he had unsuccessfully contested 2019 Assembly elections from Tirtol constituency as Congress candidate.

His untimely death has shocked the people here besides Congress leaders and others from different political parties in Jagatsinghpur district. He is survived by his wife Binodin Mallick and two sons Nikheles and Hitesh. His last rites were performed at the Satyanagar crematorium in Bhubaneswar.

Crop season

State urges Centre to supply full fertiliser quota

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

To ensure smooth supply of fertilisers to farmers during ensuing Kharif season, the State Government on Monday urged the Centre to supply the entire allocated quantity of fertilisers to Odisha during the crop season.

State Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment Minister Arun Sahoo has written to Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers DV Sadananda Gowda in this regard. The Department of Fertilisers has supplied adequate quantity of fertilisers to the State as per the allocation in the month of April-2021. However, in the months of May and June-2021, there is a short supply of different fertilisers to the State against the

monthly allocation. Sahoo said in his letter. During May 2021, he said, only 34,340 metric tonne of urea has been supplied to Odisha against the monthly allocation of 48,950 MT. Also during the current June, only 18,690 MT of urea has been supplied against the monthly allocation of 70,830 MT as on June 18.

Similarly, during May and June-2021, only 37,519 MT of DAP, 8,803 MT of MOP and 46,902 MT of NPK have been supplied to the State against the allocation of 82,000 MT of DAP, 28,900 MT of MOP and 81,600 MT of NPK. "During last Kharif, the State had experienced scarcity of urea due to short supply of 45,000 MT of urea as a result there was a law and order situation in most of district of State.

In city

Youth duped of ₹60K by Facebook 'friend'

On promise of physical intimacy

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

A youth was duped of Rs 60,000 by a woman, who had befriended him on the social networking site Facebook recently. The victim, an employee of a private educational institution in the Infocity area here, was cheated by the fraudster after being lured with nude photos and proposal of physical intimacy. Later, the youth lodged a police complaint in this connection.

As per the FIR, the victim became friends with a girl and after regular chats and video calls between the two, the girl proposed to him for physical relation by luring him with her obscene photos.

The accused received Rs 60,000 from the victim in three instalments for this purpose. Later, she deleted her Facebook account and became incommunicable. On realising that he has been cheated; the victim left with no option, approached the police, who are investigating into the incident after registering a case under relevant section of the IPC.

Constable recruitment drive postponed

CUTTACK: The process for recruitment to 244 Constable (Communication) posts by the Odisha Police has been postponed, an official advertisement said on Tuesday. On the other hand, an online application portal for recruitment of 477 posts of SI of Police became live on the day and the mega recruitment drive would continue. The candidates who are willing to apply for aforesaid posts would be able to apply through online mode at odishapolice.gov.in from June 22. The speciality about this recruitment drive is that board is going to recruit transgenders first time to boost their confidence. The board released notification on June 14 for engagement to post of Sub-Inspector and Constable in General Duty and Communication Category.

In Twin city

'Beware of home delivery fraudsters'

Police advise to trust only reputed e-commerce firms

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The Commissionerate police on Tuesday cautioned residents of the twin city of Cuttack and Bhubaneswar to be vigilant while placing orders online for essential items.

Notably, due to the lockdown the residents of the twin city are placing online orders from grocery, daily use items and food. Taking advantage of it some fraudsters are placing fake advertisements on social media to deliver essentials and cheating customers. Keeping this on view, the police advised

people to order delivery from only trusted and reputed e-commerce platforms. The contact numbers which are advertised on social media promising delivery of goods may be fraud. As a result, the customer may not get the ordered items delivered even after paying money.

Police also advised people to beware of the fake advertisements. They suggested to 'search safely' the customer care service numbers from the internet as there have been instances in the past where people have been duped by online fraudsters. "Customer care numbers, helpline numbers may be taken from the official website of the e-commerce companies," police said.

Paddy procurement

BJP alleges miller-BJD nexus

To stage stir before Civil Supplies Corp office on Jun 25

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The BJP on Tuesday warned the State Government to procure all paddy stored in the mandis and with farmers; otherwise, the party would stage



dharna in front of the State Civil Supplies Corporation

office on June 25. Addressing a Press Conference here, BJP State Krushak Morcha president Pradeep Purohit alleged that because of the token and target system, thousands of quintals paddy are left unsold. The miller-ruling party nexus is responsible for this situation. When the Modi Government has increased the Minimum Support Price of paddy to Rs 1,940, the distressed farmers are forced to sell their paddy for

Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,200. While quoting the 56-page report of the high-level Central team which visited the State in March for an on-the-spot assessment of paddy procurement process, Purohit said the Regulated Marketing Committees (RMCs) have reduced paddy procurement period set by Government, for which tokens have lapsed and small and medium farmers are suffering.

Baladevjew servitors to light diyas

For good sense on CM to allow Rath Yatra

RAJESH BEHERA ■ KENDRAPADA

The servitor of the Baladevjew temple will light Akhanda Diyas at the sanctum sanctorum on the Snan Purnima to pray the Lord to give good sense to CM Naveen Patnaik for permitting Rath Yatra in Kendrapada.

The servitors appealed to the devotees, and denizens of Kendrapada to light diyas at their houses and also at basil plant as a mark of protest against the State Government's decision for not allowing Rath Yatra anywhere in the State, except Puri. District Collector Amrut Rituraj, on Thursday strictly prohibited the Baladevjew Temple Endowment Trust board to construct Brahma Taladhawaj chariot, which signals that Rath Yatra will not be held in the district. This had sparked off

resentment among people of all shades and variety. The district BJP unit on June 18 had held a dharna in front of the district Collector office demanding permission for the Rath Yatra in Kendrapada. Even, the servitors of Baladevjew temple, several religious organisations, sadhus and mahants along with several political parties had urged for the permission to organise Car festival at the Baladevjew temple by adopting Covid guidelines. The servitors had moved the High Court over the issue as well.

Gandhi was first victim of British sedition law

After Dua case, natural question: Should draconian law framed 160 yrs ago be abolished?



GOURANG CHARAN PARIDA

A recent Supreme Court ruling on the veteran journalist Vinod Dua case has revived the debate on sedition laws again. Dua was charged with sedition under section 124 A (IPC) who in his YouTube show last year had given some adverse comments against the Prime minister, Narendra Modi. The apex court has quashed the sedition case against Dua saying that 1962 SC verdict in Kedarnath Singh vrs. the State of Bihar entitled every journalist for

protection. The most pernicious offence now - a -days, next to rape and murder, which has seized the minds of the politicians and the police, is sedition.

Section 124 A of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 defines sedition which says, 'whoever by words, either spoken or written...excites disaffection towards the Government established by law, shall be punished' This colonial law framed 160 years ago is mainly intended to suppress the voice of freedom in India.

Gandhiji was the first most popular freedom fighter who was victim of this draconian law in 1922, the era of non-cooperation movement. After the violence in Chauri Chauras, Gandhiji suspended the non-co-operation movement which he himself was leading from the front. In the mid night of March 10, 1922 Gandhiji was arrested from Sabarmati Ashram while he

was taking rest. He was charged with sedition under section 124 A IPC with an intention to overthrow an established Government. The trial was held in a court in Ahmedabad which the Judge Robert Broomfield presided over. Gandhiji preferred to have no lawyers to defend him.

The charges of sedition against Gandhiji were about three inflammatory articles he had written in the Young India at intervals during non-cooperation movement. In first article called 'Tampering with Loyalty' which appeared on September 29, 1921, Gandhiji openly declared that although his task was to encourage sedition and to accept consequences, 'our self-respect and pledge required us to remain calm and non-violent'.

In another article called 'A Puzzle and its Solution' which appeared on December 15, 1921 Gandhiji urged the Government to submit to the people's will. In the third arti-

cle titled 'Shaking the Manes' which was published in the same Young India on February 23, 1922 Gandhiji had a scathing attack on the British empire that 'no empire intoxicated with red wine of power and plunder of weaker races has yet lived long like the British Empire'.

Gandhiji pleaded guilty to all these charges and expected a greater amount of punishment for his offences but the judge pronounced six years imprisonment, two years for each offensive article written by Gandhiji. Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Gandhiji were classed together in context of the sedition offence committed against the British Raj.

The judge, Broomfield had earlier awarded six years punishment also to Tilak. A person, however a great patriot he or she might be in the eyes of the millions, could not escape punishment if he preached sedition, the judge Broomfield retorted. After Gandhiji, Annie

Besant, Ali Brothers, Maulana Azad, Nehru, Sardar Patel and many others had suffered imprisonment under the archaic sedition law. India got independence in August 1947, but a question of the pre independence era disturbed every politician if sedition law was to continue.

On December 10, 1948 just after independence, KM Munshi in the Constituent Assembly, had made a passionate appeal to all the members of the House to consider to delete the section 124 A of the IPC on sedition.

Moving an amendment he told, 'the word sedition has been a word of varying import and has created considerable doubt in the minds of the people including the court of law all over the world. The notorious section, 124A was sometimes construed so widely that even a criticism of a district magistrate had been considered to be sedition. But we have a democracy now. There

must be criticism of the Government. But a line is to be drawn between the criticism of the Government and the incitement to overthrow the Government undermining the security of the nation.' KM Munshi's amendments to scrap section 124A on sedition were unanimously adopted in the Constituent Assembly.

But the Supreme Court brought the sedition back 14 years later in 1962 ignoring the Constituent Assembly debate. On January 30, 1962 in the case of Kedarnath Singh vrs. the State of Bihar, the SC upheld the sedition as defined in the colonial Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code.

Hearing a case on an offending speech by Kedarnath Singh, a communist who had spoken in temperate language, the five Supreme Court Bench viewed that it was not sedition. Mere condemnation of Government in words could not be construed as sedition either. If it were, cartoonists

and columnists would be out of business. But when the words written or spoken which have the pernicious tendency or intention of creating disorder of law and order, the law should step in to prevent such activities in the interest of public order.

But however the court had held that a balance was to be maintained between the individual fundamental rights and the interest of public order. The SC's ruling however then in 1962 indirectly restored the sedition which was abolished in 1948.

For almost hundred years since the great trial happened in India in case of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi alias Mahatma Gandhi, the sedition as a bad law has been in constant debate and discussion and it (sedition) is being considered as a relic of an era where freedom of expression was not considered a right as it is today and hence needs to be abolished. Britain, the moth-

er of sedition law, in an historic move in 2009, abolished sedition as a criminal offence and thus reportedly with pride pronounced to the world that Great Britain deleted sedition only because 'the existence of this law in this country has been used by other countries as a justification for retention of similar laws which have been actively used to suppress the political dissent and restrict the press freedom'.

Hence, the recent apex court's ruling on Dua's case has given a new boost to debate now to re-look the existence of sedition law in India. But from Socrates to Gandhi and after there have plenty of examples of persecutions of modern writers by the powers that be in a bid to control the unofficial ideas. Can a modern and sovereign State afford the total abolition of sedition laws?

(The writer is a Gandhian author and a lawyer, Phone: 9861469328)

Livelihood aid to weavers, craftsmen demanded

MP Amar Patnaik writes to Naveen

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Rajya Sabha BJD member Amar Patnaik has written a letter to Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik requesting him to approve special livelihood assistance to weavers and craftsmen in view of the ongoing Covid-19 crisis.

The MP's letter stated that weavers and craftsmen, who employ the second largest workforce after agriculture, are living in a pitiable condition having been left out of the comprehensive Rs 1,690-crore financial package announced recently.

"Handloom weavers of Odisha have been facing difficulties in selling their products and getting necessary input materials due to Covid-19-induced lockdowns since March last year. The second wave of the pandemic has fur-



ther aggravated their situation," the MP said. These skilled workers have the potential to contribute substantially to the economy of the State and also earn a huge amount of foreign exchange for the country, he said. "They are skilled workers who cannot seek jobs under MGNREGS as they are beneath their dignity. Those in private sector and not within the State Government's cooperative sector are mainly affected. They neither do know who to approach nor do the district-level line department officials

have any record of them except those who are members of the weavers' cooperative societies. Government programmes in textile sector mostly reach weavers in cooperative sector only," he stated. Patnaik has urged the CM to consider approving a one-time monthly Covid assistance, similar on the lines of the KALIA scheme, to families of weavers and craftsmen for one to two years until they tide over the current crisis and its impact which would continue to be felt by them for several years.

Lakra named men's hockey vice-captain

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

Odisha's Birendra Lakra along with Harmanpreet Singh has been selected for the role of Vice-Captain of the 16-member Olympic-bound Indian Men's Hockey Team.

Midfielder Manpreet Singh will lead the team at Tokyo Olympics 2020. Lakra, a veteran defender who was also a part of the London Olympic Games, had missed Rio Olympics due to a major knee surgery in 2016.

On being selected as the Vice-Captain, Lakra said, "This will be a very special Olympic Games as we have prepared really well and are poised to win a medal in Tokyo.

Being named as a Vice-Captain along with Harmanpreet Singh is a matter of pride for me; and over these past years with India we have seen players show great mental toughness during our preparations despite these trying times. We just hope to make the hard work and sacrifices



count by winning big." Earlier, the Hockey India had announced defender from Odisha, Deep Grace Ekka, as Vice-Captain of the Women's Team. "To lead India as Vice-Captain at the Olympics is a huge honour and it will surely motivate me further to do well for the team.

We have players from different regions of India in the team, but we have come closer as a unit over these past 15 months during the pandemic which has been challenging for all," said Ekka on being announced as the Vice-Captain.

In Jajpur Undertrial prisoner dies in mysterious circumstances

PNS ■ JAJPUR

A 28-year-old under-trial prisoner, who had been arrested in a theft case, was found dead in the toilet of a quarantine facility of the Sub-Jail at Ragadi in Jajpur district on Tuesday. He was allegedly suspected to have died by suicide.

SK Hanif Sheikh, a native of Murshidabad in West Bengal, had been arrested on June 13 and was in quarantine for a mandatory period. On Monday night, he allegedly hanged himself using a towel from the skylight of the toilet of the quarantine centre. The jail authorities rushed him to the Community Health Centre at Korei, where the doctor declared him dead.

A case in this regard has been registered in police station based on information provided by the jail authorities. Police seized the body and sent it for autopsy, said the Korei police station IIC Ranjit Mohanty.

INBRIEF

YET ANOTHER JOURNALIST SUCCUMBS TO COVID

Brahmapur: Another local working journalist, Debiddatta Rath, died of Covid-19 while undergoing treatment here. He was also a social worker and had extended a helping hand to poor corona-affected people and worked for betterment of orphans. Social activists and Brahmapur Press Club members mourned the death of late Rath.



SUDIP NAG ELEVATED AS NTPC TALCHER KANIHA ED

Talcher: Sudip Nag, Chief General Manager, NTPC Talcher Kaniha, has been elevated as Executive Director, Talcher Kaniha with effect from June 19. In his career spanning 34 years, Nag has served the Maharashtra company with various diverse profiles. He has undergone training on latest environment control technologies at J-Coal, Japan.



BEVERAGES CORPORATION PAYS ₹5 CR TO CMRF

Bhubaneswar: The Odisha State Beverages Corporation Limited (OSBCL) contributed Rs 5 crore to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) for the State Government's fight against the second wave of Covid. The Excise Principal Secretary-cum-OSBCL Chairman handed over the cheque to Chief Secretary SC Mahapatra.

PPT OBSERVES YOGA DAY



Paradip: The International Day of Yoga was observed by the Paradip Port Trust with PPT Deputy Chairman AK Bose inaugurating the event in the presence of other officials and Paradip Centre of Art of Living secretary SK Sethi and experienced faculty of the Art of Living Tapas Pati. A one-hour yoga session held virtually had 120 participants from PPT employees and their family members. The PPT CISF Unit conducted separate programmes. Banners, hoardings and electronic display boards highlighted the significance of the day.

YOGA DAY CELEBRATED AT DAV POKHARIPUT



Bhubaneswar: To spread yoga awareness among students, the DAV Public School, Pokhariput here organised performances of yoga asanas and pranayama on virtual mode on the seventh International Day of Yoga. The programme started with a motivational address by Principal Dr Sujata and was followed by an online yoga session for the students, parents and teachers by yoga teacher Rajalaxmi Tripathy. Chief Speaker Swami Sadananda Saraswati apprised students about the significance of yoga in their day-to-day life.

VIYASANAGAR PATANJALI YOGA SAMITEE HOLDS YOGA DAY



Jajpur Road: The International Day of Yoga was celebrated at the Vyasaganar Senior Citizens' Forum office here. The programme was conducted by the Vyasaganar Patanjali Yoga Samitee and presided over by yoga guru Batakushna Pradhan in which 'Udayabata' editor Dushmanta Rout was chief guest. Forum secretary Chandramani Samal and Yoga Pravari Dhruva Charan Kar were the other speakers. Others participants included were Satrughna Puhan, Lambodar Mallick, Ghanashyam Rout, Sanatan Mallick, Aswini Kumar Das, Prafulla Nayak, Yudhisthir Mallick, Sankarsan Sahoo, Upendranath Mohanty and Batakushna Nayak. Pramod Samal gave a vote of thanks.

BIGGEST VACCINATION DRIVE AT JAJPUR ROAD



Jajpur Road: The Vyasaganar Municipality started a massive vaccination drive at Utkal Centre Point here from Monday for 10 days, except Sunday, to vaccinate 18-44 and 45+ age groups. Daily, 1,500-2,000 people will be vaccinated.

RED CROSS HOLDS YOGA TRAINING SESSION

BHUBANESWAR: To mark the 7th International Day of Yoga, a three-day online yoga training session was organised with the theme 'Yoga for Wellbeing' at the Indian Red Cross Society Odisha State Branch following Covid guidelines. Yoga guru Honorary Secretary IRCS OSB CTM Suguna taught various breathing exercises like pranayama to enable the participants to overcome the depression and anxiety problems during this pandemic situation. She also taught Surya Namaskar to the participants and advised them to make yoga a part of their daily routine to remain mentally and physically healthy. Honorary Treasurer Maj Dr Kalpana Das explained how yoga is essential in the pandemic situation to stay psychologically strong and also to be free from negative thoughts. More than 500 counsellors and volunteers from all districts joined the programme and learnt the importance of yoga.

In Ganjam Clerk, peon held for taking bribe

CUTTACK: Two persons, a Junior Clerk and a retired school peon were arrested on Monday by the Vigilance police for demanding and accepting a bribe of Rs 5,000 in Ganjam district. A trap was laid on to nab Aska Sub-Treasury retired peon Kasinath Panda and he was caught red-handed in the Sub-Treasury premises while accepting the bribe from complainant Gopal Dalabehera, Assistant Teacher of the SR High School, Dharakote, as per the direction of Sushant Mishra, Junior Clerk, SR High School. The accused were arrested and forwarded to court.

2 Tito cousins held in land grab case

PNS ■ KENDRAPADA

The Special Task Force (STF) police led by its Inspector Ashok Kumar Giri on Monday night with the help of the Kendrapada Town police conducted raids at Dilwarpur village within Kendrapada Municipality and nabbed two youths, who are the cousins of Tito, in a land grab case.

SDPO Rajib Lochan Panda said the duo Papa alias Sayed Jahed Ali and his younger brother Sadam alias Sayed Sadam Ali, are brothers. They were produced before the SDJM Court here on Tuesday in a case filed under Arms Act. The lawyer of arrestees filed bail petitions before, but court reserved its order and sent duo to jail custody. Additional Public Prosecutor of SDJM

Court Niranjan Bal said one Gobinda Chandra Mohanty, one Sarojini Mishra, a resident of Fatehpur under Kujang PS, and others of Golden Land

Development lodged an FIR that Tito and his associates forcibly occupied their lands worth of Rs 1.44 crore on NH-5(A) side near Gopa Chowk.



No Covid rehabilitation for the needy in D'nal

CM's intervention sought

KRUSHNA KUMAR MISHRA ■ DHENKANAL

Bazia Sethi (65) of Jayagopal Sahi, Dhenkanal was earning around Rs 15,000 from ironing clothes per month and was somehow managing his household expenses. But he has lost his income for continuous lockdowns and shutdowns due to the Covid pandemic.

Another, Girish Chandra Behera, was running a tailoring shop at Mahavir Bazar. His shop choice tailor was famous in the town. He too was earning around Rs 20,000 to Rs 25,000 per month from stitching of dresses and mostly during festivals he was earning handsomely.

Though he was not generating any rush that should cause spreading of the virus, he has to shut his shop and thus suffer financially. Similarly scores of small vendors selling Dahibara, Gupuchup, Pampudi chat, Bara, Aluchap, boiled egg, egg roll are out of business thanks to the ban on sale of these eatables at markets.

These poor vendors are suffering like anything due to loss of livelihood. The barbers are somehow managing to earn their bread by providing door to door service when their saloons are closed. Besides, cultural sector is the worst affected due to the continuous lockdown since March 2020.

Anakit Pallav Nayak, an engineer, Samir Prusty, Jamini Ranjan Das and Sabita Dhir though are highly educated, they were earning from teaching Odissi dance and classical music and by working in cultural institutions. But now they are sitting idle as all the cultural and educational institutions lie closed.

Regrettably, when the State Government has stopped its financial support to all cultural institutions in State, the Union Government is not releasing regular cultural grants to them during crisis. Meanwhile, people from various quarters, including the District Journalists' Association, have urged CM to personally look into issue and provide compensation to the genuinely needy.



'Make every day a Yoga Day'

Odia Society UAE celebrates annual occasion

PNS ■ BHUBANESWAR

The International Day of Yoga was celebrated by the members of the Odia Society UAE in Dubai on Monday. This year too, people in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) including Odias participated on this occasion with full enthusiasm in programmes with limited attendance, parks, and homes while adhering to the restriction Odia Society UAE chief Dr Chandra Sekhar Khuntia said, "Maintaining a regular yoga



practice can transform our lives drastically by boosting our immunity, self-esteem and confidence. Let's make every day 'Yoga Day.' In his message for the occasion, Indian Consul

General Aman Puri said, as per Prime Minister Narendra Modi "Yoga is an invaluable gift of India's ancient tradition to the world and in this era of Covid pandemic, it is proving to be a real boon to mankind." "Yoga which is our priceless tradition, gives us a happier way of life. By integrating the body, mind and soul, one adopts a sense of calmness and mindfulness in behaviour. Yoga is going to be a highlight in Indian pavilion during the Dubai Expo 2020," Puri added. Notably, the Indian Consulate in Dubai has been celebrating International Yoga Day by conducting various programmes for past six years.

Trees felled, timber sold illegally

BARGARH: Many big trees have been cut for construction of the Block colony's new building at Bargarh district headquarters town. As per forest guidelines, the trees should be cut with permission of Forest department but here no permission was taken. Besides, the timbers have been sold illegally, locals alleged. They have also alleged that old houses' furniture has been sold without auction by Government guideline. Although block office is situated nearby forest office, yet no action was made for timbers. The local public of Bargarh have demanded a probe in to illegal tree cutting and timber sale by the Vigilance department.

Recent extinction of species is anthropogenic, man-made



SUNDARA NARAYANA PATRO

Earth is the only living planet in the universe, so far known to science. The future of human species as well as plant and animal species depends on the health of the planet 'Earth'. Global warming due to accumulation of green house gases (GHG) in the atmosphere is the cause of increased pace of weather-related disasters like cyclones, floods, droughts, tornadoes, tsunamis, earthquakes, sea level rise, loss of biodiversity, emergence of new diseases and so on posing serious challenge to the survival of life on Earth.

Corona virus pandemic during 2020-21 is a glaring example of how alienating nature and environment and ecological footprints of modern development activities cause heavy casualty to the human race. The environment, ecosystem and the living species in

planet 'Earth' are not permanent and static. They always undergo change. In the process of evolution some species degenerate and regenerate, some species become extinct, some species may evolve new, and some species undergo modification in adoption with changing environment. Periodically mass extinction of species also takes place. Since its creation planet 'Earth' has experienced five mass extinctions.

Early life forms began to flourish during the Cambrian Explosion, 540 million years ago. The Ordovician-Silurian Extinction took place 440 million years ago (first mass extinction) during which all the small marine organisms died; the Devonian Extinction (second) that happened 365 million years ago lost most of the tropical marine species; the Permian-Triassic Extinction (third) occurred 250 million years ago was the period of largest mass extinction in Earth's history affected a range of species including many vertebrates; the Triassic-Jurassic Extinction (fourth) caused 210 million years ago led to the extinction of other vertebrate species on land but allowed dinosaurs to flourish; and the fifth was the Cretaceous-Tertiary Extinction that took place 65 Million Years Ago. About 50 percent of a wide range of plants and animals starting from tiny marine

organisms to large dinosaurs suddenly died out. Scientists estimate that most of the plant and animal species that ever lived are now extinct.

Those five mass extinctions are considered natural. In addition to it in later ages during recent industrial civilization there is rapid degeneration or extinction of species which is anthropogenic and man-made. Planet Earth is now sustaining heavy loss of species due to frequent weather-related disasters. Prioritising development activities paying scant regard to natural habitat and ecosystem and alienation with nature and environment leads to newer problems like spread of corona virus in recent years causing global health emergency. India has witnessed many epidemic outbreaks since the 1990s but none of those were as widespread and as fatal as Covid-19. The major epidemics were Encephalitis lethargica (1915-1926), Spine flu (1918-1920), Cholera (1961-1975), Flu (1968-1969), Smallpox (1974), Plague in Surat (1994), SARS (2002-2004), Dengue and Chikungunya (2006), Gujarat Hepatitis (2009), Odisha Jaundice (2014-2015), Swine flu (2014-2015), Encephalitis (2017), Nipah Virus (2018), and Coronavirus (2019-2021). The non-communicable diseases like cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney malfunction, chronic obstructive

pulmonary disease (COPD) etc are rising in greater pace posing serious challenge than the communicable diseases because of global warming, exposure to pollutants and radiation. If the warming of planet Earth and environmental pollution go on unabated the possible and inevitable catastrophe may land us into the sixth mass extinction in not too distant future.

Towards a livable future we must adopt low-carbon lifestyle, improving energy efficiency, conserve energy and water, plan cities better, save forests, managing the coasts, recycle the waste, adopt circular economy in preference over linear economy, accomplish a second green revolution, curb environmental pollution, improve health, end environmentally destructive subsidies, safeguard biodiversity, stabilise human population.

Urban lifestyle is now order of the day. A conservative estimate puts it that about 40 per cent of the urban GHG generation is from the urban buildings. The principal source of energy is fossil fuel like coal-fired thermal power, petrol, diesel, kerosene, cooking gas, fire wood, etc. The burning of such fuels emits carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide, sulphur dioxide, methane, etc.

The municipal garbage, the leftover stubble in the agricultural fields, plastic and elec-

tronic wastes are also often lit fire and burnt, in absence of its scientific management, which also emit such gases. The ambient air in urban environment is generally polluted. The per capita electricity consumption per annum in India is low with 1,208 kWh compared to global per capita consumption of 3,600 kWh.

Lower the quality of coal higher is the amount of fly ash and other waste generation. India plans to retire its coal-based plants that are at least 25 years old and contributing excessive pollution, totalling 11,000 MW of capacity. Some diesel generator plants and gas turbine plants were also decommissioned in 2016.

Unprecedented increases in global temperatures have occurred in tandem with record levels of GHGs concentrations and emissions. Since 1750, atmospheric CO2 concentrations have increased by 31 per cent, with more than half this increase occurring in the last 50 years.

CO2 concentrations are increasing at an unparalleled rate. About three quarters of the human-caused carbon emissions of the past 20 years are due to fossil fuel burning, with the remainder coming from deforestation and other forms of land use change. The 5th Assessment Report of IPCC also warned that if GHG emissions continue to rise, the Earth will pass the threshold

beyond which global warming becomes catastrophic and irreversible. That threshold is estimated as a temperature rise of 2 °C above pre-industrial levels, and on current emissions trajectories we are heading for a rise of about 5 °C. Natural forest plays a pivotal role in climate resilience.

The indirect function of forest is maintenance of thermal and ecological balance and the direct function is availability of its food resources, house building materials, etc for consumption. Unfortunately, our forests are shrinking fast. The impact of deforestation is most devastating to the poor in particular.

Earth is now sustaining heavy loss of species due to frequent weather-related disasters. Prioritising development activities paying scant regard to natural habitat and ecosystem and alienation with nature and environment leads to newer problems like spread of corona virus in recent years causing global health emergency. Earth is our only planet in the universe where life is possible till date. We are consuming natural resources faster than its regeneration running into ecological deficit. It is very essential to maintain its natural assets in order to continue life on it.

(Dr Patro is president, Orissa Environmental Society, snpatro11@gmail.com, 0943790420)

Schools to reopen after maximum people get jab: Govt



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Anticipating a third Covid-19 wave in October, the Government on Tuesday said that schools, shut since March last year due to the pandemic, will only re-open once a significant portion of the population has been vaccinated against coronavirus.

The Government had last week also cancelled CBSE and ICSE exams for Class 10 and 12. An alternative marking system has been proposed, amended with suggestions from parents and students, and accepted by the Supreme Court.

"Schools require teachers and children to sit together. It gives the virus an opportunity to spread. We can only have this (re-opening of schools) when a large part of the population is protected," Dr VK Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog, said at a press conference on Tuesday here.

"Until it (the spread of the virus) is predictable it is hard to re-open," he said.

Dr Paul also warned against re-opening schools because of the declining trend in daily new cases, saying:

"The lull right now is because of restrictions. When they are removed cases may spike."

The re-opening of schools, colleges and other places of education will "always be under active consideration... but the overall guidance is to be cautious", he added.

Some states like Telangana have said they will re-open schools and colleges from July 1. Others, like Delhi and Kerala, have said they will continue with virtual classes for now.

"We should also remember that in many countries schools reopened then outbreaks were reported and they had to shut them down again. We don't want to put our children and teachers in that situation unless we have more confidence that the pandemic won't harm us," the government has been saying in the past few days.

The government has said next month's sero survey will include 14,000 kids over the age of six.

In a recently released sero-survey by the AIIMS, the seroprevalence, presence of virus-fighting antibodies

Covaxin shows 77.8 % efficacy in phase III trials

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Bharat Biotech's Covaxin has shown 77.8 per cent efficacy in Phase III trials, according to sources in the Government's panel of experts which has reviewed the phase 3 clinical trial data of the country's indigenous Covid-19 jab. The phase 3 data will now be reviewed by the top drug regulator, Directorate of Controller General of India (DCGI).

The data will also be reviewed by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 23 June for approval. Once approved by WHO, India will be able to export Covaxin to many developed countries like the UK and the US.

The trial was conducted on 25,800 subjects, and the data submitted to the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) showed the vaccine was "well-tolerated". Covaxin had received emergency use approval (EUA) by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) in January 2021, and has been used to vaccinate the population since. However,

against Sars-CoV-2, among children was found to be 55.7% across five study sites, in comparison to 63.5% among adults.

Last month, over 8,000



the WHO is yet to give it EUA approval, restricting its export to many developed countries like the US and the UK.

"According to the data submitted, Covaxin has shown 77.8 per cent efficacy in the last stage trials conducted on 25,800 subjects. It is almost the same as the interim efficacy," a member of the SEC on the condition of anonymity said. "The data shows the vaccine was well-tolerated."

The SEC, however, did not discuss changing the status of the vaccine from emergency use to full licensure, which means regular approval or marketing authorisation of the vaccine under normal circumstances, the sources said.

A panel of independent experts, SECI advises the DCGI on applications seeking approvals for new drugs, vac-

cines and clinical trials. Hyderabad-based Bharat Biotech had submitted the data to DCGI over the weekend.

In March, Bharat Biotech had announced an interim efficacy of 81 per cent from the trial, where participants received vaccine or placebo in a 1:1 ratio.

The company had then said the clinical trial will continue through to final analysis, to gather more data and to further evaluate the efficacy of Covaxin. The final data is known to be more accurate and reliable.

Besides Covaxin, Covishield, developed by AstraZeneca and manufactured locally by Serum Institute of India and Russia's Sputnik V are the other two vaccines being currently used in India.

Children below 18 have not yet been cleared to receive a Covid vaccine, although Bharat Biotech has begun trials for 2-18 year old candidates with Covaxin.

7 who took AstraZeneca shots in Kerala develop rare neurological disorder

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Seven persons—seven from Kerala in India and four from the UK—who received the AstraZeneca-Oxford Covid-19 vaccine, have developed a rare neurological disorder called Guillain-Barre syndrome, clinicians in India and England have reported in two separate studies.

The studies, published in the peer-reviewed medical journal Annals of Neurology, described an unusual variant of Guillain-Barre syndrome characterised by prominent facial weakness.

All the 11 cases were among people who had received that vaccine 10-22 days earlier. Seven cases were reported from a regional medical center in Kerala, India, where approximately 1.2 million people were vaccinated with the AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine till April 22.

The cases occurred within two weeks of the first dose of vaccination. "Six out of the seven patients progressed to areflexic quadriplegia and required mechanical ventilatory support," said Bobby Varkey Maramattom, from the Department of Neurology, Aster Medcity, Kochi, Kerala.

"The frequency of GBS was 1.4 to 10 fold higher than that expected in this period for a population of this magnitude. In addition, the fre-



Four cases were reported from Nottingham, England, in which approximately 7 lakh people received the same vaccine

quency of bilateral facial weakness, which typically occurs in less than 20 percent of GBS cases, suggests a pattern associated with the vaccination," he added.

Four cases were reported from Nottingham, England, in which approximately 700,000 people received the same vaccine. These were characterised by bifacial weakness with a paraesthesia variant of GBS occurring within three weeks of vaccination with the Oxford-AstraZeneca SARS-CoV-2

vaccine. "This rare neurological syndrome has previously been reported in association with SARS-CoV-2 infection itself. Our cases were given either intravenous immunoglobulin, oral steroids, or no treatment," said Jonathan Rhys Evans, Department of Neurology, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, UK.

"If the link is causal it could be due to a cross-reactive immune response to the peripheral immune system," wrote the authors of the report from England.

"We suggest vigilance for cases of bifacial weakness with paraesthesia variant GBS following vaccination for SARS-CoV-2 and that post-vaccination surveillance programmes ensure robust data capture of this outcome, to assess for causality," Evans said.

Be prepared for imminent 3rd wave: Rahul to Centre



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday warned the Government of an imminent third wave of the coronavirus pandemic and urged the Centre to prepare for it. But not before hitting out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who, he charged, was busy with West Bengal polls when many died due to lack of oxygen.

"The whole country knows that a third wave will strike," Rahul said at a virtual Press conference during which he also released a "white paper" on the pandemic.

Rahul said the aim of this white paper on Covid-19 is not finger-pointing at the government but to help the nation prepare for the third wave of infection.

However, he criticised Modi for conducting election rallies for Assembly polls amid the second wave of coronavirus.

"In the second wave, many died needless deaths. We couldn't provide them oxygen cylinders. Prime Minister's tears cannot wipe the tears of families who lost family members. His tears cannot save them, oxygen can. But he did not take it seriously as his focus was on Bengal," Rahul said.

He also said that the government's management of the first two waves of the pandemic was "disastrous", adding

BJP: 'Gyani Baba' dishing out 'pearls of wisdom to PM'

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a riposte to the Congress white paper on Covid-19 management, the BJP on Tuesday took a sharp jibe at Rahul Gandhi saying the 'Gyani Baba' dishing out 'pearls of wisdom' to the Prime Minister should introspect why Congress-ruled States caused the second wave of coronavirus, why they didn't accept vaccines initially and also share the actual count of deaths?

"State with the highest case fatality rate - Congress ruled state. States with maximum noise against vaccines creating vaccine hesitancy - Congress ruled states. States which had an astronomical positivity rate during the second wave - Congress ruled states", the Minister alleged.

She also said that it was the Congress-ruled states that demanded decentralisation of vaccine procurement and later did a "U-turn".

"Who demanded decentralization & then did a u-turn? - Congress. Which states did the worst in terms of vaccination yesterday even as the country created a world record? - Congress ruled states. It is darkness under the lamp," she said.

Making another attack on the Congress after Rahul released the white paper, BJP spokesperson Sambit Patra the opposition party of twisting India's fight against Covid19.

that his intention was to provide the government "information and insights on what went wrong".

The Congress MP sug-

gested the ramping up of health infrastructure in the country as the Government was "not ready" during the first two waves of the pandemic.

Judge recuses himself from hearing Narada case



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

After Justice Indira Banerjee's recusal from hearing West Bengal post election violence cases, another judge from the State Justice Aniruddha Bose recused himself from the politically sensitive Narada case on Tuesday.

Later, the Supreme Court's new Bench comprising Justices Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheswari decided to hear on June 25 the appeals of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the state Law Minister Moloy Ghatak against the June 9 order of the Calcutta High Court which had refused to take on record their affidavits on the CBI's transfer plea related to the Narada scam case.

The appeals, initially listed before a vacation bench of Justices Hemant Gupta and Aniruddha Bose, were referred to another bench by Chief Justice N V Ramana during the day itself after Justice Bose recused from the hearing without citing any reason. The bench of Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheswari, to which the cases were referred, took up the matter in the afternoon. Justice Saran said that the matters are fresh for the bench and

they needed to go through the files before the hearing.

On being pointed out that earlier the top court had requested the high court to defer the hearing till it decides the appeals, the bench said that it would pass the same order urging the high court to postpone the scheduled hearing there on June 23 and wait for two more days. The bench then enquired from Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, and senior Advocates Rakesh Dwivedi and Vikas Singh whether they will be able to conclude the arguments on Friday. The lawyers answered in the affirmative.

Initially, the state government and the law minister had moved the top court with their appeals and later the chief minister filed her plea against the June 9 order of the high court.

On June 9, a five-judge bench of the Calcutta High Court, hearing CBI's application for transfer of the Narada sting tape case from the special CBI court to the high court, had said it will decide later on considering the affidavits by Banerjee and Ghatak on their respective roles on the day of the arrest of four leaders in connection with the case.

India, US to start air drill from today in Indian Ocean region



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

As the Indian Ocean has emerged as one of the most strategically important regions and China is flexing its maritime muscle there, the IAF will take part in an exercise with the US there for two days starting Wednesday.

Giving details here on Tuesday, IAF officials said as a strategic outreach exercise with the defence forces of friendly foreign countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), IAF and the US Navy will participate in an exercise to be carried out with Ronald Reagan Carrier Strike Group (CSG).

The Exercise in the area of responsibility of the Southern Air Command will see the IAF forces operate from bases under four operational commands and will include Jaguars

₹583 cr deal with Goa shipyard for 2 pollution control vessels

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Giving a boost to the Indian ship building capabilities, the Defence Ministry on Tuesday signed a contract with Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) for the construction of two pollution control vessels (PCV) for the Indian Coast Guard at a cost of about ₹583 crore.

The ships are being procured to significantly augment the capability of the Indian Coast Guard to

respond to incidents of oil spills at the sea and also boost the force's pollution response mechanism. These two vessels are scheduled for delivery by November 2024 and May 2025 respectively.

The defence ministry said the "special role ships" will be indigenously designed, developed and built by GSL. The acquisition will significantly augment the capability of ICG to respond to oil spill disasters at sea, it said.

and Su-30 MKI fighter jets, AWACS, AEW&C and Air to Air Refueller aircraft. The US CSG is expected to field F-18 fighters and E-2C Hawkeye AEW&C aircraft. The exercise will be carried out south of Thiruvananthapuram, on the western seaboard, over two days.

UK posts liaison officer at Indian Navy's Information Centre

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Signaling the growing importance of India's maritime prowess and its significance in the Indian Ocean region, the UK on Tuesday posted a liaison officer at the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre (IFC). It is the key hub of maritime security information relating to the Indian Ocean.

The Indian Navy established the IFC-IOR in 2018 in

Gurugram to effectively keep track of the shipping traffic as well as other critical developments in the region under a collaborative framework with like-minded countries. Australia and USA have already deputed their officers to this centre.

The positioning of the British officer at the centre comes ahead of a planned visit to India by the UK's Carrier Strike Group, led by aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth. "Lt Commander Stephen

Smith will be based full-time at the Centre, working directly with the Indian armed forces and fellow liaison officers from partner nations to enhance maritime domain awareness in the region," the British high commission said here on Tuesday.

Admiral Tony Radakin, Chief of Naval Staff of the UK, described it as a significant step towards maritime domain awareness by both India and Britain.

No relief from scorching heat, humidity for next 7 days: IMD

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Monsoon in large parts of northwest India would actually be delayed, quite contrary to the forecasts about its onset a fortnight earlier than its scheduled date or slightly before time. With the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Tuesday saying that further progress of the monsoon into Delhi and parts of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab is "unlikely" during the next seven days, it is clear that even the usual onset date of June 27 would not be met in the region.

would not be any relief from the scorching heat and humidity anytime soon.

India has received 37 per cent excess rainfall during the monsoon season so far. As per the IMD data, northwest India has received 71.3 mm rainfall against the normal of 40.6 mm rainfall during the period, a surplus of 76 per cent. Central India has registered 145.8 mm rainfall against the normal of 92.2 mm, an increase of 58 per cent. The southern peninsula has received 133.6 mm rainfall, which is 24 per cent more than normal, while east and north-east India witnessed 253.9 mm rainfall against the normal of 224.8 mm during the period.



On the advancement of the monsoon, the IMD said that further advance of southwest monsoon into remaining parts of Rajasthan, west Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh & Delhi and Punjab is likely to be slow as large scale features are not favourable.

"The forecast wind pattern by the numerical models do not indicate any favourable condition for sustained rainfall over the region during the forecast period," it said.

"Southwest monsoon has so far covered most parts of the country except parts of Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana and Punjab," it said.

"The salient feature of the monsoon in 2021 is its progress to eastern, central and adjoining northwest India earlier than normal (up to 7-10 days). However, further progress over the remaining parts of the country is unlikely during the next seven days," it said.

Kuldeep Srivastava, the head of the IMD's regional forecasting centre, said light rains are likely in Delhi-NCR around June 26 but the region will have to wait for monsoonal showers.

The MeT office had earlier predicted that the wind system may reach Delhi by June 15, which would have been 12 days early. Normally, the mon-

soon reaches Delhi by June 27 and covers the entire country by July 8.

Last year, the wind system had reached Delhi on June 25 and covered the entire country by June 29, according to Skymet Weather, a private forecasting agency.

Mahesh Palawat from Skymet Weather said chances are that Delhi will get monsoonal showers only around June end.

"Westerly winds have been blocking the advance of the monsoon into the remaining parts of northwest India for some days. These are expected to persist for at least one week," he said.

New political alliance in the offing in UP

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A new political alliance led by the Bahujan Samaj Party and Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha comprising Om Prakash Rajbhar-led Suheldeo Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) and AIMIM is likely to include three more small political parties.

BSP chief Mayawati and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi have held several rounds of talks and the latter is coming to Lucknow next month. The alliance is likely to be formalised and the BSP supremo is expected to make the announcement. Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh are scheduled for early next year.

Om Prakash Rajbhar had dropped hints about broadening the alliance on June 20. Rajbhar said he was trying to rope in several other parties, including TMC and Aam Aadmi Party to form an effective front to counter the BJP.

In the 2017 UP Assembly elections, the SBSP in alliance with the BJP had contested eight seats and won four. Rajbhar was made a cabinet minister but he was dismissed in May 2019 soon after the Lok Sabha elections.

The SBSP, for strengthening its ground in eastern Uttar Pradesh, had stitched up an alliance with the Hyderabad-based All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) in January earlier this year.

AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi had made a one-day tour to Purvanchal with Rajbhar. Owaisi visited Azamgarh and Jaunpur districts.

In UP, Owaisi has joined hands with SBSP and eight other parties, including Krishna Patel's Apna Dal, Jan Adhikar Party and Chandrasekhar Ravan's Azad Samaj Party.

This Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha has announced to con-

test the 2022 UP Assembly elections against the BJP to represent the unheard Muslim-Backward and Dalit caste voices. The Apna Dal (Krishna Patel) is likely to quit the alliance as it is said to have cut a deal with the BJP. Its president Krishna Patel is likely to be nominated as the member of the UP Legislative Council. The Apna Dal (Sonela) led by Anupriya Patel MP, daughter of Krishna Patel, is already an ally of the BJP.

Ever since the entry of the AIMIM in Bihar elections in October last year, small caste-based political parties have been trying to get the caste arithmetic in their favour in eastern UP.

Although the Bhagidari Sankalp Morcha and Owaisi in particular have been targeting the BJP, the presence of this alliance in Azamgarh and adjoining districts will directly affect the Samajwadi Party performance in the region.

Stalin seeks support of other CMs to oppose Centre's move to take over minor ports

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Muthuvel Karunanidhi Stalin on Tuesday wrote to his counterparts in nine States asking their support in opposing the actions initiated by Government of India "on management of minor ports hitherto managed and regulated by State Governments."

Stalin asked all coastal States and Union Territories to express their objection to the Draft Indian Ports Bill 2021, which according to him was an aggression on the powers and rights enjoyed by the States to manage the minor ports. There are nearly 200 minor ports dotting India's coast line.

In a demi-official letter dated June 21, excerpts of which were released to the media on Tuesday Stalin told chief ministers of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, Odisha and West Bengal that the 'Draft Indian Ports Bill 2021' to modify the current management model of minor ports was an attempt to rob the States of their powers.

"As per the existing Indian Ports Act, 1908, the powers to plan, develop, regulate and control the minor ports vests with the State Governments concerned. However, the new draft Indian Ports Bill 2021 proposes to change this and transfer many of these powers to MSDC (Maritime State Development Council), which has so far been only an advisory body. Further to this, many



powers currently exercised by State Governments would be taken over by the Union Government," writes Stalin in his letter.

He said the move of the Central Government to bring a new Bill would have long term adverse implications on the management of minor ports, since the State Governments will not have any major role anymore, if the Bill is passed.

But experts in maritime sector describe Stalin's apprehensions as much ado about nothing. "There is no hard and fast rules that say that minor ports belong to the domain of States," said Captain Hariharan Balakrishnan, formerly of Indian Navy.

"The Centre has every right to decide how ports, both major and minor ports, should be developed. How many minor ports are being operated by State Governments? We do have minor ports but the Centre can take over them as and when it wishes," said Captain Balakrishnan.

The Constitution of India has clearly stated in Article 246 (sections 24 to 28) that Ports, Maritime Shipping and Navigation on Inland Waterways come under the jurisdiction of the Centre while Ports other than those declared by or under law made by Parliament or existing law to be major ports fall under the Concurrent List where the Centre calls the shots.

PMO move against Bengal ex-CS cruel, heartless: TMC

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

The Trinamool Congress has strongly reacted to Centre's decision to take punitive action against former Bengal Chief Secretary Alapan Bandopadhyay for alleged insubordination (to the Prime Minister's Office) and dereliction of duty in the cyclone Yaas case.

Calling the central proceedings against Bandopadhyay for avoiding a meeting at Kalaikunda where he was asked to brief Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the damages caused by the super cyclone senior Trinamool Congress MP Saugato Roy on Tuesday said that "the actions taken by the Department of Personnel and Training which in all essence runs under the Prime Minister's (Narendra Modi) instruction is a proof of his cruelty and heartlessness... this order has been passed to intimidate the upright officers like Alapan Bandopadhyay to stop them from working independently... such actions are a blow to the federal structure of the country."

"The action a 'cruel and heartless one' at a time when 'the former Chief Secretary has just lost his mother' Roy said.

Bengal Pradesh Congress president Adhir Chowdhury said that the Centre was "unnecessarily" making it an ego clash of sorts "in a bid to show who is more powerful or 'look, I am more powerful than you'... Such childish fights should stop."

"The Centre had sent a 'memorandum' of 'charge sheet' service's Discipline Rules 1969 and the Retirement Benefits Rules 1958 — to be explained within 30 days of receipt — to the retired IAS officer.

It states "Shri Alapan Bandyopadhyay, IAS (Retd) is informed that an inquiry will be held only in respect of the Article of Charge as is not admitted. He should, therefore, specifically admit or deny the Article of Charge."

Bandopadhyay known for his integrity, merit and high literary talents was pulled up by the Centre for failing to abide by the PMO directives requiring him to make a digital presentation of the damages caused by cyclone Yaas in a Prime Ministerial meeting — in the last week of May — at Kalaikunda off Kharagpur.

Bandopadhyay had gone there with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee but left along with her after she decided to leave the venue immediately after coming to know that Opposition Leader Suwendu Adhikari had too been invited in the meeting. She left the spot in a huff alleging protocol breach with Bandopadhyay in tow.

Subsequently the Chief Secretary was transferred by the central Home Ministry to Delhi. However he chose to retire on May 31st post which he was appointed the Chief Advisor of the Chief Minister.

Om Birla urges public representatives to play active role in vax drive

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Tuesday urged the public representatives to play an active role in the ongoing vaccination drive. He also asked the presiding officers to sensitise the members of all democratic institutions to conduct public awareness campaigns about Covid-19 so that citizens can be protected against the pandemic. The Lok Sabha Speaker was addressing a virtual meeting of all-India presiding officers' conference.

Birla asked the presiding officers to urge all members of Vidhan Sabha, Vidhan

Parishad, Panchayat, Municipality etc to make the vaccination drive a big success. 31 presiding officers of State legislatures participated in this virtual meeting, who discussed several matters, including legislative response to tackle the menace of Covid-19.

Birla said that in the first two years of the 17th Lok Sabha, the productivity of the House has been more than 122 percent.

He added that changes have been in rules with respect to matters under Rule 377, due to which the Hon'ble Members now get answers to more than 90 percent of matters raised.

12,617 new cases in Kerala

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

Despite the lockdowns of different varieties, there has been no worthwhile fall in the transmission of Covid-19 in Kerala. The State logged on Tuesday 12,617 new patients while the death toll during the last 24 hours reached 141.

Though the Test Positivity Rate in seven districts showed less than 10 per cent, there are many regions in the State which have TPR of 30 per cent and above and this has made return to normal-

ty a distant dream. Across the State, 11,730 covid patients who were undergoing treatment were discharged from hospitals as they tested negative.

As the lock down rules have been relaxed, crowds in roads and public places have come back with most of the public transport plying to capacity.

A release issued by the department of health said that during the last 24 hours, the State tested more than 1.17 lakh samples.

Out of the new cases of 12, 617

diagnosed with the pandemic on Tuesday, 11,719 persons contracted Covid-19 through contacts which underscore the fact that Kerala is not a safe place for those want to escape from the Wuhan virus, as the disease is popularly called here.

Meanwhile the Indian Medical Association and doctors under the Kerala Government Service have issued unofficial alerts about the possibility of the third wave of the pandemic, which may strike the State anytime.

MUMBAI HOUSING SOCIETY VACCINATION FRAUD HC directs Maha to frame policy to prevent recurrence of frauds

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

Having taken cognizance of the Covid-19 vaccination fraud that came to light in a city cooperative housing society last week, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday directed the Maharashtra government and Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to formulate a policy to prevent recurrence of such frauds and also book the kingpin behind the fraud unearthed in the metropolis.

Hearing a public interest litigation filed by social activist a PIL filed by lawyer Anita Shekhar Castellino and Adv. Siddharth Chandrashekar, a HC bench of Chief Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice G. S. Kulkarni asked the Mumbai Police to submit the status report on its investigations into the fake vaccination racket by Thursday.

Directing the BMC to keep a track of ongoing private vaccinations in various housing societies in the metropolis and also ensure that senior citizens did not suffer, the HC bench observed: "There has to be a policy. Some intimation or communication among housing societies, hospitals, civic body, so that such incidents do not happen"

"What is the most unfortunate thing here is that when the whole of humanity is suffering, some people are still playing frauds of this kind... The State and the BMC must come up with a policy or guidelines on an SOS basis for private vaccination camps to avoid similar incidents in future," the HC bench said.

The HC bench told the State Government and BMC not to take such incidents lightly, and wanted to know if the fraudsters were being booked under stringent provisions of the Epidemic Diseases Act, or the Disaster management Act. "See to it that the investigation is not delayed. Tell us what is the progress of the investigation.."

These are serious issues. Fraudsters are playing with the lives of innocent people," the Judges said.

Senior Advocate Anil Sakhare, representing the BMC, told the court that the Mumbai Police was already investigating the issue and the civic body has also initiated the necessary measures

On his part, State's counsel Deepak Thakare told the High Court that of the five accused in the vaccination fraud reported from Kandivli-based Hiranandani Heritage Society, four had been arrested and an accused doctor was on the run.

The High Court directed the Mumbai police to arrest all accused persons. It will hear the plea further on June 24.

It may be recalled 62 hours after the office bearers of Hiranandani Heritage Residents' Welfare Association (HHRWA) lodged a complaint with them, Kandivli police had arrested four persons behind the alleged fraud.. The HHRWA office bearers had alleged that the three alleged fraudsters collected ₹4.92 lakh from 390 residents, housekeeping staff, security guards, drivers or domestic helpers on May 30 for conducting a vaccination camp.

The camp was conducted by three facilitators, including Rajesh Pandey and Sanjay Gupta, who claimed to represent leading private hospitals like the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital (KDAH) and the Nanavati Hospital. They agreed to provide 400 vaccine doses for around ₹1,260 each, for which the society paid around ₹4.92 lakh. However the vaccination facilitator did not provide receipts for the money taken.

On their part, the KDAH and the Nanavati Hospital had distanced themselves from the questionable vaccination camp by saying that they had nothing to do with the vaccination camp conducted at Hiranandani Heritage Society.

Supplementary chargesheet filed in TRP scam case

With addition of 7, total accused goes up to 22

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a significant development, Editor-in-Chief of Republic TV was on Tuesday named as among the seven additional accused in a supplementary chargesheet filed in the much-discussed Television Rating Points (TRP) scam before a Metropolitan Magistrate's Court here.

In a 1,912-page supplementary chargesheet filed before the 37th Mumbai Metropolitan Court at Esplanade named Goswami and six other employees from Republic TV and Republic Bharat TV channels as accused for offences registered against them under Section 420 (cheating, Section 120-b (conspiracy), 406 (criminal breach of trust), 465 (forgery), 204 (destruction of evidence) and various other Sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Apart from Goswami, six others named in the supplementary charge-sheet are Priya Mukherjee, Chief Operating Officer, Republic TV, Siva Subramaniam, Chief Financial Officer, Republic TV, Amit Mohan Dave, Sanjay Sukhdev Varma, Shivendra Mundherkar and Ranjit Walter.

With addition of seven names in the supplementary chargesheet, the total number of accused charge-sheeted in the alleged TRP scam has gone up to 22. In two charge-sheets filed earlier in the case on November 11, 2020 and January 11, 2021, the police had named 15 accused in the case.

Those charge-sheeted include:

the ex-CEO of Broadcast Audience Research Council (BARC) Partho Dasgupta and Republic TV CEO Vikash Khanchandani all of whom had been booked for alleged cheating, forgery, criminal conspiracy, destroying evidence and criminal breach of trust etc.

In their three charge-sheets running into 22 accused in the TRP scam case, the police have said that the investigations in the case had revealed three kinds of tweaking of TRP data — inducing the panel homes where Bar-o-meters are installed by way of paying money to watch certain channels for specific time, placing of one television channel on two different frequencies by multi system Operators/Cable operators for one television channel and manipulation of television viewership data (meterule) received at BARC.

It may be recalled that on October 6, 2020, Mumbai's former police commissioner Param Bir Singh had said: "The investigations carried out so far have revealed that certain television channels like Republic TV, Fakt Marathi, Box Cinema etc have been indulging in such malpractices. Certain witnesses have come forward to tell us that they were induced by the arrested accused people and their accomplices for a monthly monetary consideration". Singh had said that the Republic TV was a suspect in TRP manipulation and the police had received data from the BARC.

The TRP is calculated on the basis of TV channel viewership in a confidential set of households.

Conversion racket: NSA invoked against accused

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

A day after the Anti-Terror Squad arrested two individuals in the alleged religious conversion, the police have now invoked the National Security Act (NSA) against the accused on the directions of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Those arrested have been identified as Mufti Qazi Jahangir Alam Qasmi and Mohammad Umar Gautam by Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) Prashant Kumar. Both accused are the residents of Jamia Nagar in New Delhi.

According to reports, the properties of the accused will also be confiscated. On Tuesday, the ATS also got their police custody remand for further interrogation.

The alleged conversion racket was busted by the ATS following the registration of an FIR in the case at the ATS police station in Lucknow.

As per reports, two men of Delhi's Jamia Nagar, were allegedly running an outfit involved in converting deaf and dumb students and other poor people to Islam in Uttar Pradesh with funding from Pakistan's ISI. Moreover, children and women were also lured with false promises of cash, jobs, and marriage for conversion.

BJP MP demands disqualification of Nusrat Jahan

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

BJP MP from Badaun Dr Sanghamitra Maurya demanded the disqualification of West Bengal's TMC MP and actress Nusrat Jahan for allegedly giving a false affidavit in Parliament and hiding her marital status. Maurya handed over a letter to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla recently.

The BJP MP demanded cancellation of Nusrat Jahan's Lok Sabha membership. In the letter, she said that the TMC MP's conduct was indecent.

"She has deceived her voters on the issue of marriage. The dignity of Parliament has also been tarnished by her act," she stated in the letter.

She said that the matter should be sent to the Ethics Committee of Lok Sabha for investigation. Maurya, on a day-long visit to her Lok Sabha constituency, said that Nusrat Jahan lied in the affidavit.

"I have no interest in the TMC MP's personal life but



with her affidavit where she has shown her marital status as married. Her name in the affidavit is Nusrat Jahan alias Noori Jain and her husband's name is Nikhil Jain. Now she claims that her marriage was not valid. You lied to the public and Parliament. There should be an investigation into this matter and action be taken," Maurya said.

"When Nusrat came to take oath in the Lok Sabha, she wore vermilion on her forehead and had marriage bangles, which is a custom of a newly married woman. I think it was done to fool the people," Maurya added.

SC stays Bombay HC verdict cancelling caste certificate of Amravati MP

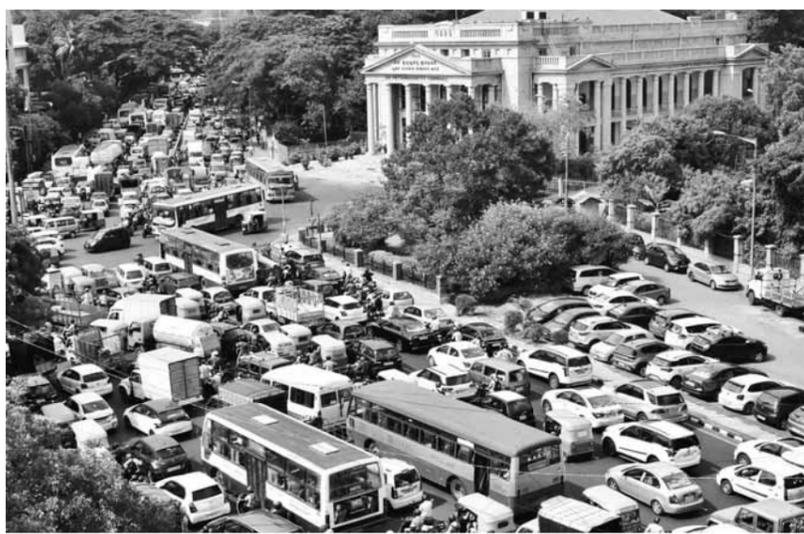
PNS ■ NEW DELHI

In a relief to Lok Sabha MP Navneet Kaur Rana, the Supreme Court on Tuesday stayed the Bombay High Court verdict cancelling the caste certificate of the independent lawmaker representing Maharashtra's Amravati constituency, reserved for scheduled castes. The Bombay High Court had on June 9 cancelled the caste certificate of Rana, saying it was obtained fraudulently using fabricated documents, and had also imposed a fine of ₹2 lakh on her.

A vacation bench of Justices Vineet Saran and Dinesh Maheshwari took note of the submissions of senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, appearing for the lawmaker, and issued notices to respondents including the State Government, District Caste Scrutiny Committee and Anandra Vithoba Adsul who had challenged the veracity of the caste certificate of the MP.

"Issue notice. We will have it for hearing on July 27. Meanwhile, we have stayed the judgment of the Bombay High Court. It is understood that on the next date of hearing the matter will be disposed of," the bench said. The court, which proposed to issue notice on Rana's appeal and stay the high court's judgement at the outset, took note of vehement submission of senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing for Adsul, that the verdict not be stayed without hearing him.

Rana, backed by Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), had won from Amravati constituency in 2019 by claiming to be a member of 'Mochi' scheduled caste. The high court had held that Rana's claim of belonging to 'Mochi' caste for obtaining the SC certificate itself was fraudulent and made with the intention of obtaining various benefits available to a candidate from such category, despite knowing she does not belong to that caste.



Vehicles stuck in a traffic jam in the central business district after certain restrictions of Covid-induced lockdown were eased, in Bengaluru on Tuesday

Close to 8L people in UP inoculated

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh created a record of sorts as close to 8 lakh people were vaccinated in 24 hours even as 255 new cases of Covid were reported on Tuesday while 397 patients recovered.

Government spokesman Shishir Singh said that till 8 pm on Tuesday, 7.63 lakh people were vaccinated and the count could reach 8 lakh.

On June 21, the State had recorded 7,29,197 vaccinations. Till now, 2,63,22,777 vaccine doses have been administered across the state. "From July 1, the Government has fixed a target to vaccinate 12 lakh people per day," the spokesman said.

At present, there are 3,910 active Covid cases in the state and 2,525 patients are in home isolation.

"Today, no new cases of infection were found in 16 districts while fresh cases in single digit were reported in 55 districts," Additional Chief Secretary, Information, Navneet Sehgal said here on Tuesday.

Wheat purchase in UP hits all-time high

'Lucknow: In the Rabi marketing season 2021-2022, the Uttar Pradesh Government has made the highest-ever purchase of wheat from the highest number of farmers. Wheat procurement in UP has increased eight times in Yogi Adityanath's regime, going up from 7.97 lakh MT in 2016 to 56.25 lakh MT, an all-time high, in the ongoing season.

The sharp hike in procurement has benefited 13 times more farmers than the previous Samajwadi Party government in 2016. During the Rabi marketing season 2016-17, wheat was purchased from merely 1,66,073 farmers whereas in the 2021-22 season, over 12.88 lakh farmers benefited from the purchase despite the pandemic situation.

The Yogi Adityanath Government has purchased more than 2.22 crore MT of food grains on higher MSP so far in its tenure which is 110 per cent more than the target. In comparison, during the erstwhile Akhilesh Yadav Government, the total purchase of wheat from 2012 to 2017 was just about 94.38 lakh MT, only 42 per cent of the target.



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PAPER WITH PASSION

The bulwark

An Opposition front is seemingly in the making, but its united impact on the BJP remains to be seen

It is best to think of the meeting of like-minded parties and individuals convened by Sharad Pawar and Yashwant Sinha as being exploratory. For, the invitation issued for the meeting is not clear about the real purpose of the deliberations at this juncture, who all are expected to put up a united political front to confront the BJP and the scope of the political strategy. The meeting between Pawar and political strategist Prashant Kishor preceding the invite gave rise to speculations in the entire Opposition camp. There is also ambiguity about the status of the Congress in this scheme of things because the invite did not go to the party but to three senior leaders who are part of the 'G-23' group. Prashant Kishor clarified that what they will look for is not the Third Front model. Be that as it may, the meeting comes just as the political parties gear up for the next round of Assembly elections, including in Uttar Pradesh. The second wave of Coronavirus has left most parties, in power in one State or the other, scarred by exposing their inadequacies in handling the pandemic. Both are good enough reasons for the politicians to take stock of where they stand individually and what it means to shape themselves into a united forum to challenge the BJP in 2024.



There is enough on the table even for an exploratory meeting. The regional parties are strong in their respective States, but lack national presence or relevance. Most of the leaders, save a few,

do not have a national presence either. Many of them fight the Congress in regional politics. Some, like the YSRCP and the TRS, are partners with an umbilical rivalry. The true postures of these parties will become apparent in the next presidential election due next year. The national parties suffer from a shrinking area of influence even as they confront one another, like in Kerala, or are whipped by a regional force, like in West Bengal. Some of these parties are not even attending the meeting. Second, they will need to project a correct perception of their relations with the Congress. A non-Congress, anti-BJP bloc of regional parties is one thing. An anti-Congress, anti-BJP forum of regional parties is another. For, the latter, by definition, shares anti-Congressism with the BJP. The Congress, despite its dipping political fortunes, remains the fulcrum of anti-BJP politics, given that in both 2014 and 2019 it was the runner-up in upwards of 200 seats. It all depends on whether the Congress can retain Punjab and fare better in other States in the upcoming elections. The real issue, however, is coming up with an alternative to brand Narendra Modi's political narrative that has an equal resonance nationally and a post-pandemic economic agenda. What the exploratory meeting can afford not to do is wait for the law of diminishing utility to eventually kick in against the BJP.

PICTALK



Devotees offer prayers on the occasion of Bada Mangal, at Bade Hanuman Ji temple near Sangam, in Prayagraj. PTI

Fuel on fire

The Government should exercise fiscal discipline rather than exploiting oil prices to shore up revenue

While every graph of economic indicator is nose-diving, oil prices and inflation are defying gravity. This month, diesel also breached the ₹100-mark in Rajasthan. In seven States, petrol is selling for more than ₹100. This is indeed not a good sign for economy, which is reeling under severe recessionary pressures. Manufacturing is down, employment is low, and so is the purchasing power of the common man. The petrol-diesel prices put an extra burden on him. Oil prices push the prices further up as these have a cascading effect on economy. The Government is in no mood to relent. Moreover, volatility in the international market limits its options. These two factors are responsible for putting the fuel prices on fire. The prices were hiked 43 times this year. This has indeed helped the Government collect more revenue. The excise collection during April-November 2020 was at ₹1,96,342 crore, up from ₹1,32,899 crore during the same period in 2019. The central taxes increased from ₹10.39 in May 2014 to ₹32.9 in June 2021! This explains the dynamics of oil pricing. Before Modi



Government, crude oil price constituted two-thirds of the fuel price, now taxes have taken that spot. The central and State Government taxes account for nearly 54 per cent of its cost.

The Government is justifying the high excise on petrol and diesel by saying that it needs money to spend on welfare schemes. Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan concedes that it is problematic for people, though quickly adding that the Government spent ₹35,000 crore on vaccines. So, apparently the logic is that people who drive should foot the bill. But then it is not only the cars and bikes that consume petrol and diesel. The trucks that carry freight and diesel pump sets that push water into the fields also run on diesel. That was one reason that diesel was always priced less but that consideration has been done away with. This naturally translates into higher input costs for farmers and a higher cost of farm products. However, adjusting excise and other taxes could control the fuel prices. With the Opposition struggling, there are hardly any street protests. Each time, the increased new price becomes normal. The Government has done little to tighten its expenses. It has failed to avoid wasteful expenditure on projects of little value. Fiscal discipline is missing in the Government. The petrol price hike comes in handy.

Corona's orphans: Kids of a lesser god



GYANESHWAR DOYAL

Stung by the tragedy of one or both parents succumbing to the virus, thousands of children stare at an uncertain future, if they have one

Even as the country braces for the third Corona wave which experts feel would be tougher on children, the pandemic has already taken a toll. On June 1, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) reported in the Supreme Court more than 9,300 Corona orphans in India. These include more than 1,700 children who lost both the parents. The actual figure could be many times this number as the data is yet to be collected from across the country.

Unfortunately, as of now, the Government does not have a plan in place to rehabilitate these children. Let alone a plan, it has not even identified these children yet. Many children have been orphaned due to circumstances created by the pandemic. Many people lost their lives while going back to their hometowns during the lockdown. They carried children in their arms or dragged them on wheeled suitcases. Many never reached their destinations and the children were left in the middle of nowhere. Who can forget the pictures of a toddler trying to wake up her dead mother on a railway platform? Of course, these children would not figure in the Government data of Corona orphans.

The pandemic has already killed the dreams, aspirations and hopes of the Corona orphans. Their number is now in thousands, if not lakhs, after the second wave. Many people who succumbed to Corona could not even have the last word with their children. Some children are still waiting for their parents to return. They are fed on lies that their parents have "gone to work" and will "return with goodies". The day they find out the truth would be shattering for them.

Often, especially in the second wave, both the parents died within a few days of each other. The child was left alone without any support system to fall back upon. Even those survived by a single parent do not have the normal childhood left for them. The person who got them toys,



played with them, attended their PTMs is gone. A bleak future and hardships await them; the innocence all set to yield at the altar of the real world.

Corona took away the children's childhood as it did their innocence. Most people at a tender age wilt under pressure. If it is a child, the chances of her/his being altered for life are high. For children, losing parents is traumatic. Parents fulfil not only the needs of a child but give him a sense of security which is important in the growing up years. Most of the behavioural traits of the children get consolidated in the first seven years. Losing parents during that time scars children, changing their worldview forever.

It is the time when we, as a nation, need to step up our efforts to take care of such children. The parents cannot be replaced but, in the least, the child can be given a sense that there is someone who cares and provides him support. It could be his relatives, adopting parents, non-governmental organisations, or the Government itself.

The moot question is, what next for these children?



THE PERSON WHO GOT THEM TOYS, PLAYED WITH THEM, ATTENDED THEIR PTMs IS GONE. A BLEAK FUTURE AND HARDSHIPS AWAIT THEM; THE INNOCENCE ALL SET TO YIELD AT THE ALTAR OF THE REAL WORLD

Indeed, adoption comes up as the most natural way these children could be given a second lease of life. But there are some inherent dangers. The chances of fake adoptions are high. Child traffickers see it as an opportunity. Often, the children get adopted by traffickers and sold off.

The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) handles adoptions in the country. Strict guidelines govern the process of adoption in India. Any adoption without following this process is illegal. It puts children at high risk. Many adopted children are exploited, trafficked and abused. Moreover, the adoption rate in India is rather low. Only around 4,000 children are adopted every year; so few children would find a family that way.

An abandoned child is an easy prey for traffickers. In this situation, it becomes the responsibility of each one of us to help a child in distress. At the least, one could call children's helpline number (1098) and inform the authorities about the child in distress. Or, one can also contact the district Child Welfare Committees (CWCs) or inform the local police sta-

tion. The CWC decides the fate of these children — whether the child needs to go to a long-term or short-term shelter or for adoption. The Prime Minister has announced that such children will get a monthly stipend once they turn 18 through a corpus fund of ₹10 lakh under the "PM-CARES for children" scheme. But the important question is how a child, says age two, survives 16 years to take that stipend!

Foster care is another option that can be explored and encouraged. The kith and kin of the deceased can take care of the child. But then that, again, is not free of problems. Many a time, the children end up working as domestic helps, their education stopped, their rights curtailed. There must be an agency to monitor such cases. There is an urgent need to tackle this issue on priority so that these children do not fall into the wrong hands. We, as a nation, have to think out of the box to help these children of a lesser god!

(The writer is a columnist and documentary film-maker. The views expressed are personal.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AN UNCHARITABLE DECISION

Sir — We have only heard of insurance companies trying to find some loopholes in the claim applications and find some lame excuses to deny claims made against policies issued by them. It is shocking that the Central Government is trying to follow the tactics of such insurance companies to deny *ex gratia* compensation to the family of those who died of COVID-19 on the plea that this is not a one-time disaster and that such a huge payout will empty the disaster funds available with the Government.

While we have witnessed the Government deferring the expenditure of more than ₹20,000 crore for the not-so-urgent and not at all necessary Central Vista project and a luxury mansion for the Prime Minister, the Government has denied compensation to the victims' families. What is the use of dumping the available funds in developing new infrastructure for medical facilities without paying the amount to the bereaved families that need immediate support in the absence of the breadwinner of the family?

The argument of the Government to deny COVID-19 compensation is uncharitable when it has taken decisions to give huge tax benefits to the corporates and also to write off non-performing assets in banks amounting to millions of rupees.

Tharcus S Fernando | Chennai

BEFORE THE NEXT WAVE HITS

Sir — The strains of the third wave of Coronavirus would fall upon us during October, according to medical experts. So, it is the foremost duty of the States and the Centre to be prepared to combat it from all directions. Further, people should strictly follow guidelines, protocols and advisories issued by the authorities concerned. It is also suggested that stress should be on the production of vaccines, medicines and other healthcare facilities. Hopefully, this third wave may be outcast from the country without putting any deleterious impact on the health of people.

If the Government takes their advice and opens up schools, then what will hap-

Blue Dot Network versus Chinese BRI



The G7 Summit held recently in the wake of the COVID-induced crisis will be remembered for certain positive outcomes like adoption of the US-backed "Build Back Better World" plan to support middle and lower income countries in high-quality infrastructure. What is surprising is that it took several years to visualise and conceptualise a network akin to the Chinese model. In its quest to contain the overgrowing influence of belligerent China in the world panorama.

Considering the emergence of Indo-Pacific as the centre of the rivalry between the US and China, there is an urgent need to explore alternative areas of collaboration. The Blue Dot Network (BDN) is one such area. The concept of BDN, envisaged under the Trump Administration in 2019

at the 35th Asean Summit in Bangkok and proposed in the recent G7 Summit under the auspices of the OECD, can serve as a counterweight to the Chinese BRI unveiled in 2013.

As China has acquired the dubious distinction for unsustainable debt creation in participating countries, this network can serve as a balancing act to curb the hegemonic designs of China. The BDN's objective is to assist smaller countries in developing quality infrastructure, to promote open and transparent investments, which was found wanting in the latter, as they did not adhere to international certification standards. Moreover, the BRI in the guise of economic and infrastructural development has put several participating countries of Asia and Africa in a debt trap. Sri Lanka and Pakistan are glaring examples of this.

The BRI's intention to develop deep sea ports in the Indo-Pacific region is also ambiguous. Australia pulled out of BRI in April 2021 on grounds of violation of territorial integrity. As one of the ardent critics of BRI, India must play a significant role in shaping a global discourse in order to counter China.

Vijay Singh Adhikari | Nainital

pen? The issue is not just whether children get severe illness, it is about children easily becoming the link in the transmission chain in society. What is needed is a temporary restructuring of society where everything from travel, commerce, education, Government interactions, food supply and so on isn't hampered in the aftermath of the virus.

Krishnan Subramaniam | Kozhikode

OPERATE THE INTEGRATED VACCINE COMPLEX

Sir — It is perplexing why the Centre is still tightlipped over the reopening of the Integrated Vaccine Complex on the outskirts of Chennai in Chengalpattu for the production of antidotes for COVID-19 though there have been strong representations from the DMK-led Government and as well by Chief Minister MK Stalin himself during his recent meeting with Prime Minister

Narendra Modi in New Delhi. Handing over the unit on lease will not only enable commencement of production quickly and ramp up the vaccination drive for all age groups in the State, but also will help cater to the needs of other States. Meanwhile, it pains one to read media reports that this state-of-the-art unit, which is built in a sprawling area of 100 acres and which reportedly has a capacity to produce one billion doses of any vaccine annually, has been lying idle for years due to issues like shortage of staff, pending wages, and suchlike issues. At a time when people are scurrying for jabs, it is grossly unfair for a big vaccine-producing unit owned by the Central Government to have been quiescent for long.

Ranganathan Sivakumar | Chennai

SOUNDBITE

It (the Government) failed to learn from the lessons and response models of other countries which had been hit by the pandemic.

Congress leader

— Rahul Gandhi

Easing measures at the border will happen as we see our communities increasingly become safe.

Canadian Health Minister

— Patty Hajdu

#gotvaccinated. Join the fight back. Now loading: Antibodies...

Actor

— Kartik Aaryan

I am humbled to have this opportunity of representing India at the Olympics for the third time, this time as team captain.

Hockey midfielder

— Manpreet Singh

Way to go Team AP. More power to you. Congrats to YS Jagan Mohan Reddy for his inspiring leadership.

Actor

— Chiranjeevi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com



FIRST COLUMN

NEED FOR HOLISTIC EDUCATION POLICY

An important position should be given to education, and particularly inclusion, in the scheme of things



HIMA BINDU KOTA

Gender disparity and non-inclusivity is a major hindrance in India's pursuit to achieve the 4th Sustainable Development Goal of ensuring quality education for all. India lags behind China and other BRIC nations in terms of inclusivity and participation in education. China in particular has near universal levels of enrolment in lower secondary and a majority completing upper secondary in most parts of the country. India has a smaller proportion of its population enrolled at secondary levels than Brazil, Russia, and China. The only region of the world with lower participation at secondary school level than India is sub-Saharan Africa. India witnesses a huge gender disparity and access to education in India remains widely problematic, with great variations between and within states, and large differences in participation between identifiable sub-populations like Scheduled Castes and Tribes, girls, and some Muslim communities. Nationally, there is a high initial enrolment rate in the first grade. However, about 30 per cent of them fail to complete Grade V (primary), about 50 per cent drop out before completing Grade VIII (upper primary), and 60 per cent do not finish Grade X (lower secondary). This is prevalent in northern India, particularly in the BIMARU states. Gender plays an important role in education in India. According to



the Census of India 2011, only 26 per cent of girls completed secondary education as compared to 50 per cent of boys. The Annual Status of Education Report (Rural), 2019 also found that preference is given to the education of sons in comparison to daughters, by enrolling the former in private schools, which are considered better than government schools in imparting education.

In India, both direct and indirect costs of schooling are high and the lower household incomes of the majority of the population makes participation in secondary schooling a big challenge. Household surveys show the poorest allocate less than five per cent of expenditure to education. Unsubsidised secondary schooling is not available to most rural households and is considered a prerogative only for rich urban households. The present globalized world and integrated economies have brought to the fore the core importance of education. It plays a crucial role in empowering individuals and pave way for transformation of the society at large. Education has a major role in making the youth improve their social standing by alleviating their poverty-ridden condition. One of the main measures of human development is access to education, and as the Human Development Report 2012 mentions, the growth in index is associated with growth in public spending on education. Therefore, a fundamentally important position should be accorded to education, and particularly inclusion, in the entire scheme of things. The importance of quality education and the urgent need of equality in education should be ingrained in the policy. As education is imperative for empowering people, equality and inclusivity have to be crucial for any education policy to facilitate and drive widespread social transformation in the society. The government should create a framework based on equality of condition, which has five dimensions of 1) resources; 2) respect and recognition; 3) love, care and solidarity; 4) power; and 5) working and learning. With equality of condition as a base, gender equality framework can be extended by adding the aspect of inclusion, which, in addition to parity, equity and equality, can become the pillars for achieving quality education for all. It is proposed that these four elements of the gender equality framework have to be guided by another framework — strategy, practices, resources and governance - to develop a holistic and integrated education policy.

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

Big Tech vs Governments: The road ahead

A few unaccountable and unelected corporations having the power to silence or amplify an opinion and directing a country's political discourse doesn't bode well



ANIL K ANTONY

Great corporations exist only because they are created and safeguarded by our institutions, and it is, therefore, our right and duty to see that they work in harmony with these institutions." These were the words of the 26th US President Theodore Roosevelt during his 1901 State of the Union address. "There is a widespread conviction in the minds of the American people that the great corporations known as trusts are in certain of their features and tendencies hurtful to the general welfare," he wrote before he used the Sherman Antitrust Act to break up monopolies including the largest railroad conglomerate, J.P Morgan's Northern Securities, and the largest oil company, Rockefeller's Standard Oil.

The US since then has used updated antitrust legislatures to clip the wings of giants including AT&T and Microsoft which were deemed powerful enough to stifle free-market competitiveness. The extent of influence of Big Tech companies that drive today's internet-technology-driven world is much more profound.

None of us can imagine a life where we do not use one of their products. They have aided in the creation of a hyper connected planet where any individual with technical know-how, irrespective of other differences, can access the internet and find myriad avenues for acquiring knowledge, form communities, create or get access to digital products and services, and be a part of a global digital economy. They act as instruments of economic and social mobility for billions.

Their valuations also unsurprisingly increased with their rapid expansion. Currently, eight of the world's largest ten companies based on their market capitalisation are from this industry. They exceed the GDP of most nations. Some of their balance sheets have surplus cash greater than the reserves of most countries. Apple, for instance, has a valuation exceeding \$2 trillion, and cash reserves of nearly \$200 billion.

The growth of this sector has been immune even to the Covid-19 pandemic that wrecked economies as people's reliance on digital tools increased during lockdowns. This sector's growing prominence has also led to some of the great maladies of our time, including never-seen-before inequalities, and democratic recession.

Integration of Artificial Intelligence, and Automation into Big Tech products has cut down the need for new jobs, leading to jobless growth. The same platforms that disrupted mass communication have ironically been used by governments with authoritarian tendencies to further extend state control. They have also aided in the rise of many demagogues to power across the world.

As these tech titans continue their market conquests, run-ins with governments have become commonplace. The past year saw fronts opening across continents between these companies and various governments. Antitrust lawsuits are the biggest battlegrounds. Major Big Tech firms including Google, Amazon, Apple, Alibaba, Facebook, and FlipKart are facing multiple investigations across the United States, European Union, China, and India.

This is mainly because the Big Tech firms have evolved into the gatekeepers of the Internet. They have userbases in hundreds of millions. Customers and enterprises cannot access many markets without going through their tech infrastructure. These companies set up large barriers of entry, or promote unfair business practices that charge



OUR DIGITAL ECONOMY IS DRIVEN BY DATA AND ALL THE BIG TECH FIRMS DERIVE TREMENDOUS VALUE FROM THE DATA COLLECTED FROM THEIR MYRIAD USERS. WE SHOULD SEE MORE COUNTRIES MAKE LAWS THAT WOULD MANDATE THE BIG TECH FIRMS TO SHARE SOME OF THE WEALTH CREATED WITH THE MAIN CONTRIBUTORS, INCLUDING PUBLISHERS

(The writer is a tech entrepreneur, public policy commentator, and works on the Congress party's digital initiatives. The views expressed are personal.)



excessive platform fees, limit competition, and kill smaller businesses.

Very recently, five bills have been moved with bipartisan support in the US House of Representatives meant to prevent big tech firms from favouring their products and services through their platform over their competitors. These proposed laws could separate their primary platform from their other line of businesses. Interestingly, US President Joe Biden has named Lina Khan, a very vocal Big Tech critic, as the country's top regulator.

The EU has proposed a sweeping set of legislation through the Digital Markets Act (DMA) that has clauses to fine an offender up to 10 per cent of their annual global revenue for anti-competitive behaviour. Provisions are included to break up repeat offenders. Aspirants are vying to be modern-day Teddy Roosevelts on both sides of the Atlantic.

India in 2018 itself had banned e-commerce companies from selling products they have an equity interest in through their platforms. The latest CCI probes are based on allegations of them circumventing these laws through circuitous business structures.

Google and Facebook, meanwhile, locked horns with the Australian Government over a new law that requires these tech companies to pay news companies for any original content they share on their platforms. After an altercation that resulted in a week-long blockade of the country's news links on Facebook, local news publishers started receiving payments. These developments will have conse-

quential effects.

Our digital economy is driven by data and all the Big Tech firms derive tremendous value from the data collected from their myriad users. We should see more countries make laws that would mandate the Big Tech firms to share some of the wealth created with the main contributors including publishers. Upcoming technologies like Blockchain would enable micro-payments to be made to every person contributing value in cyberspace. Big Tech's unassailable influence was highlighted during the months following the 2020 US Presidential elections when Donald Trump and some of his most vocal supporters were locked out of all social media platforms in a united effort by Big Tech. What can happen to the all-powerful President of the United States could happen to anyone. Angela Merkel of Germany called Trump's bans 'problematic'.

The prospect of a few unaccountable and unelected corporations having the power to silence or amplify any voice or opinion based on their predilections and thereby directing a country's political discourse does not bode well for any democracy. Since then, Uganda banned Twitter before their Presidential elections, and Nigeria banned Twitter after the social media platform deleted a tweet of their President.

Twitter and the Indian Government are at loggerheads over its intermediary status. Tech platforms have created internal systems for flagging and deleting questionable content posted on their platforms. However, these are repeated altercations with

authorities. India could again take a leaf out of the EU, which through its newly proposed Digital Services Act (DSA) makes it mandatory for all platforms to reveal to regulators currently opaque areas of tech platform functioning including possible dissections of their proprietary algorithms, and requires clear-cut mechanisms on filtering or removing content. Penalties up to six per cent of the company's turnover, and even suspension of service await non-complying offenders.

The tech sector, whose role and impact would only increase with time, requires broad, standardized, holistic regulations including well-defined penalties. Policy ambiguity would only create avenues of Government overreach. Regulatory bodies and tax authorities could arbitrarily open probes based on individual whims and fancies.

India's ruling party and the Union Government have many a time been accused of using these very same platforms for spreading false narratives, and for the propagation of underhanded political practices. Our Parliamentary Committee of IT should take the initiative in creating watchdog institutions under their purview, comprised of domain experts, with independence and authority to check Government excesses in tech policy.

Institutions and regulations thus formed are essential to ensure that our markets and political processes remain free and fair, and our digital landscape remains safe places for open discourses, without being subjected to digital colonization.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

90 PER CENT OF PEOPLE WHO DIED... BIGGEST REASON WAS LACK OF OXYGEN. THE PM'S TEARS CAN'T WIPE FAMILIES' TEARS....
— CONGRESS LEADER RAHUL GANDHI



WHENEVER WE ARE AT A CROSSROADS IN OUR FIGHT, RAHUL GANDHI AND THE CONGRESS HAVE TRIED TO DERAIL EFFORTS BY PLAYING POLITICS.
— BJP NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON SAMBIT PATRA

Sasikala planning a return to Tamil Nadu politics?

Age and circumstances are against her but she will not throw in the towel easily and will weigh her options to see how she can stage a comeback

Will V.K.Sasikala, a one-time close confidante of late Tamil Nadu chief minister J. Jayalalithaa, make a comeback? It is a question mark as politics is changing fast in the state. 'Chinnamma', as she was known, has had her ups and downs in the past four decades. She enjoyed power as Jayalalithaa's shadow but she never did understand that she was only the shadow, not Jayalalithaa. She took over the party and nearly became Jaya's successor in 2017 but the BJP spoiled her plans and she instead went to Parappana Agrahara jail in Karnataka for four years.



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

before going to the Bengaluru jail and thumped the memorial platform thrice with her palm vowing to avenge her enemies. Now, after her release and a month after the AIADMK lost power in the Tamil Nadu polls, she is all set to return to active politics. In a recent alleged, phone conversation with one of the party cadres, Sasikala confirms her plans to take the political plunge.

She has been sending confusing signals about her future. Significantly, 2021 is not 2017. Much has changed in the past four years. Her two hand-picked leaders - former chief ministers O.Panneerselvam (OPS) and E.Palaniswamy (EPS) — have captured the party and they do not want



her to return. Sasikala had been involved in separate power tussles with both leaders earlier. The intensifying feud between EPS and OPS even after the electoral defeat and Sasikala's come-back plans are threatening to break the party again. EPS pipped OPS to the post of the leader of

opposition after a literal show of strength: the former had more legislators backing him. Sasikala, on the other hand, sees an opportunity in the two leaders' tussle to avenge her setbacks.

Though she cannot contest until 2027, there is no legal ban to head a party. It is a mystery why Sasikala announced her retirement from politics in March and why she wants to come back now. The timing she has chosen is also significant because the AIADMK is still struggling to come to terms with the loss of power. The cadres, especially EPS backers, are opposed to her emerging as a power centre again. EPS is one of the big hurdles for her return to the AIADMK because he

senses a threat to his position in the party.

The 'leaked' audio clip of an alleged conversation between Sasikala and one of her supporters has gone viral, creating a flutter about her imminent return. In the clip she is heard saying, "we will for sure streamline the party... certainly, I will come". And this as well: "You don't worry at all. Sure. We will resolve all the problems in the party. I will come. I will definitely come. You take care and be safe." For now, she has sent enough signals to her supporters that she is ready and waiting. Will Sasikala achieve her ambition? Though age is against her, those who know her believe she will not throw in the towel easily and will

weigh her options to see how she can stage a comeback.

The second hurdle is her own corrupt image. Her first effort to float an outfit AMMK through her nephew, TTV Dhinakaran, flopped in the recent assembly polls even though he initially won the R.K.Nagar assembly by-poll in 2017. Now she wants to find a place for herself in politics.

Thirdly, there still are other cases against her pending in the courts. She is particularly troubled by a case involving the purchase of properties with demonetized currency. With a Union Government and the State Government hostile to her she is skating on thin ice.

Fourthly, according to insiders, Sasikala is in no

hurry as her target is the 2024 Lok Sabha polls. She wants to get back into the BJP's good books by that time and establish herself and her nephew as players by using her money power. She wants to do this either by dividing the AIADMK or expanding her nephew's AMMK. Being the backstage player and Jayalalithaa's shadow in Tamil Nadu politics since the 1980s, Sasikala knows the ins and outs of Dravidian politics. She and her family were called the "Mannargudi mafia" in Jaya's time.

Chinnamma's future hangs in balance for now. It depends on many factors. Where one week is long in politics, another three years is too long.

Political crisis worsens in Nepal

SC quashes appointment of 20 Cabinet Ministers

Kathmandu: The political crisis deepened in Nepal on Tuesday after the Supreme Court quashed the appointment of 20 Ministers by beleaguered Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli, invalidating his two Cabinet expansions since the dissolution of the House of Representatives, according to a media report.

A division bench of Chief Justice Cholendra Shumsher Rana and Justice Prakash

Kumar Dhungana said that Cabinet expansions after the dissolution of the House were unconstitutional and hence, the Ministers cannot discharge their duties, a report in the *Kathmandu Post* said.

With the order, there are only five ministers left in Oli's Cabinet, including the Prime Minister, it said.

The court passed the judgement on petitions filed on June 7 by six individuals, including senior advocate Dinesh Tripathi, demanding that the Cabinet expansions by the caretaker Government be quashed.

Oli, 69, who is heading a

minority Government after losing a trust vote in the House last month, expanded his Cabinet on June 10 and June 4, inducting 17 ministers, amid widespread criticism and the ongoing political crisis in the Himalayan nation. Three State Ministers were also appointed.

"The Supreme Court has issued an interim order asking not to allow the ministers appointed after the House dissolution to function," said senior advocate Tripathi.

The Supreme Court has cited Article 77 (3) in its ruling to quash the appointments. It states if the Office of the Prime Minister falls vacant after the

Prime Minister fails to win a vote of confidence or resigns, the same Council of Ministers shall continue to act until another Council of Ministers is constituted, the report said.

The development comes when the Supreme Court is hearing the case regarding the reinstatement of the House of Representatives, which was dissolved by President Bidya Devi Bhandari on May 22 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli.

Oli last week defended his government's controversial decision to dissolve the House of Representatives and told the Supreme Court that it is not

up to the judiciary to appoint a premier as it cannot undertake the legislative and the executive functions of the state.

Nepal plunged into a political crisis on December 20 last year after President Bhandari dissolved the 275-member House and announced fresh elections on April 30 and May 10 at the recommendation of Prime Minister Oli, amidst a tussle for power within the ruling Nepal Communist Party.

In February, the Supreme Court reinstated the dissolved House of Representatives, in a setback to the embattled Prime Minister who was preparing for snap polls.

Biden meet with Ghani to ensure Af never again becomes safe haven for terrorists: WH

Washington: US President Joe Biden is looking forward to a meeting with his Afghan counterpart Ashraf Ghani during which the two leaders will discuss ways to ensure Afghanistan never again becomes a safe haven for terrorist groups who pose a threat to America, the White House has said.

Biden would meet Ghani at the White House on Friday for the first face-to-face interaction ahead of the withdrawal of the remaining US and NATO forces from the war-torn country by September 11.

"The President looks forward to welcoming him to the White House for a meeting on Friday. I expect their focus of their conversation will be to continue to discuss how we can work together to ensure that

Afghanistan never again becomes a safe haven for terrorist groups who pose a threat to the US homeland," White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told reporters on Monday.

Their conversation will also be about how they can work together to continue to implement humanitarian assistance, other assistance that the United States remains committed to, even as the US works to draw down its troops from Afghanistan.

At the Pentagon, the Defense Department said that Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and the military leadership

"are constantly looking at the pace we're going at, and the capabilities we have, and the capabilities that we're going to need throughout to complete the withdrawal."

Biden has directed the Pentagon to withdraw troops from Afghanistan by September 11 this year.

The high-level meeting between Biden and Ghani will take place as the Taliban insurgents have in recent weeks captured dozens of new districts in Afghanistan and both sides are said to have suffered heavy casualties.

Pak won't host American bases as it may lead to 'revenge attacks': PM Khan

Islamabad: Prime Minister Imran Khan has ruled out hosting American bases in Pakistan for military action inside war-torn Afghanistan, fearing it might lead to his country being "targeted in revenge attacks" by terrorists.

In an opinion piece in *The Washington Post* newspaper ahead of US President Joe Biden's meeting with top Afghan leaders at the White House later this week, Khan also questioned the efficacy of such US bases in Pakistan.

"We simply cannot afford this. We have already paid too heavy a price," Khan said, amid reports that the US continues to focus on Pakistan for a military base in the region.

Elaborating the reasons for not giving nod the US to have bases in Pakistan, which were earlier allowed after 9/11 to coordinate operations in Afghanistan, the prime minister said, "If Pakistan were to agree to host US bases, from

which to bomb Afghanistan, and an Afghan civil war ensued, Pakistan would be targeted for revenge by terrorists again."

According to media reports, the US used the Shamsi air base in Balochistan to carry out hundreds of drone strikes since 2008. The drone strikes focused primarily on suspected Al Qaeda operatives in mountainous tribal areas, but also crossed the border into Afghanistan.

"If the United States, with the most powerful military machine in history, couldn't win the war from inside Afghanistan after 20 years, how would America do it from bases in our country?" Khan asked.

Khan, however, underlined that Pakistan and the US have the same interests in Afghanistan: a political settlement, stability, economic development and the denial of any haven for terrorists.

Come for a 'friendly' visit, not to probe rights violations in Xinjiang: China to UNHRC chief

Beijing: China on Tuesday politely declined UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet's call for a "meaningful access" to verify the "serious" reports of human rights violations in the restive region of Xinjiang, saying she is welcome for a "friendly visit" but not to pursue a probe with "presumption of guilt."

The US and the EU besides

other countries have accused China of committing a genocide against the minority Muslim Uygurs in Xinjiang and called for an international probe by human rights groups.

In her address to the 47th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva on Monday, Bachelet said, "I continue to discuss with China modalities for a visit, including meaningful access, to the Xinjiang

Uyghur Autonomous Region, and hope this can be achieved this year, particularly as reports of serious human rights violations continue to emerge."

China has been vehemently refuting allegations of internment of Uygurs in mass detention camps, which were officially termed as education camps, in a bid to wean them away from religious extremism.

Eastern Coalfields Limited
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)

NOTICE

"All the tenders issued by CIL and its subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works & Services are available on (i) Website of Coal India Limited : www.coalindia.in, (ii) Website of ECL : www.easterncoal.nic.in, (iii) CIL e-Procurement Portal : <https://coalindiatenders.nic.in>, (iv) Central Public Procurement Portal : <https://eprocure.gov.in>

In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal : <https://gem.gov.in>.

(By Order), ECL

VISIT US AT : www.easterncoal.nic.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

Flat No.820, (LIG) second floor, Kondli Gharoli, Mayur Vihar-III, New Delhi

That our client Archana Singh W/o Hawa Singh proposes to purchase the above said property from Jasmine Parmar w/o Ranjit Singh R/o 156, Pocket B, New MIG Flat, Mayur Vihar-III, New Delhi, who has assured our client that she is the absolute owner of the said property vide Sale deed No. 3407 dated 28.05.19 (SR-VIII, Delhi) executed in her favour of by Man Singh Yadav w/o Badan Singh Yadav and prior chain as Original Conveyance deed No.2282/29.08.13 (SR-VII, Delhi) have been misplaced/lost for which document complaint lodged with Police vide LR No.117/06/2021 dated 09.02.21.

Under the circumstances, notice is hereby given to the General Public/Bank/Financial institutions or other persons, organizations, companies, government authorities, having any claim, rights, title, or any interest of any nature whatsoever into or upon the said property, is hereby called upon to make the same known, in writing with documentary evidence by registered AD Post to the undersigned at the address mentioned here in below within 10 days of the publication of this notice and in the event no response having been received to the notice, the title of Jasmine Parmar w/o Ranjit Singh to the said property shall be deemed to be clear of any charge or encumbrance of any nature whatsoever and any subsequent claim shall not bind our client in any manner whatsoever.

Kumar Amit Advocate
Legal Access : 132A, LCF, Anarkali Complex, Jhandewalan Ext. New Delhi-55

OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED
CIN No: L28219HR1988PLC030347
Regd. Office: 17-18, Roz- Ka-Meo Industrial Estate, Noida, District Mevat, Haryana. - 122103
Website: www.okplay.in, Email: info@okplay.in
Tel: +91 124 2362353-36, Fax: +91 124 2362326

NOTICE

Pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company is being convened on Wednesday, the 30th day of June, 2021, to consider and approve, inter-alia, the Audited Standalone and Consolidated Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and year ended on 31st March, 2021.

For OK PLAY INDIA LIMITED
Sd/-
Date : 22.06.2021
Meenu Goswami
Place : New Delhi
Company Secretary

UJVNL Limited
(An Uttarakhand Govt. Enterprise)
H.O.: "UJJWAL", Maharani Bagh, G.M.S. Road, Dehradun-248006
Telephones: 0135-2763808, Fax: 0135-2763508
CIN No: U40101UR2001SG025866,
Website: www.ujvnl.com

TENDER NOTICE Date : 22.06.2021

Office of Executive Engineer (M&G) Kuhlhal Power Station, Kuhlhal, invites sealed tenders for following works:

Tender No. : 08/UJVNL/EE (M&G)/KPS/2021-22: Annual operation and cleaning work of 33/11 KV Kuhlhal Substation, Kuhlhal. Estimated cost: Rs. 14,97,592/- GST Extra respectively. Date of availability of bid document on website : 23/06/2021 11:00 Hrs. Last date for submission of tender : 14/07/2021 15:00 Hrs. For fuller & further details, kindly visit our website. The tender documents can be downloaded from the Nigam's website www.ujvnl.com

Executive Engineer (M&G) Kuhlhal

"AVOID WASTEFUL USE OF ELECTRICITY"

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General Public is hereby informed that one lady **Namely: Shalu, D/o: Dhanpal Singh, R/o: H.No. 565, L-1st Sangam Vihar, New Delhi, Age: 23 Years, Height: 5'5", Complexion: Wheatish, Face: Round, Built: Medium, Wearing: Yellow Colour T-Shirt and Red Trouser** has been missing since 04.05.2021 from the area of P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi. In this regard DD No. 37 A, Dated 16.05.2021, has been lodged at P.S. Neb Sarai, New Delhi.

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

Phone: - 011-23014046 (Direct), 011-23015229 & 23015218 ext. 210
Web-site: <http://cbi.nic.in>
E-Mail ID: cic@cbi.gov.in
Fax: 011-23011334
DP/566/SD/2021 Ph.: 011-29551326, 29551597 & 8750870835

SHO
P.S. Neb Sarai, Delhi

FORTIS MALAR HOSPITAL LIMITED
Regd. Office: Fortis Hospital, Sector-62, Phase-VIII, Mohali - 160062, Punjab Ph.: 0172-5096001, Fax: 0172-5096002

NOTICE OF LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATE(S)

Notice is hereby given that the following Share Certificate(s) has been reported to lost/ misplaced and the registered holder/ claimant thereon has requested the Company for issuance of Duplicate Share Certificate(s) in lieu of lost Share Certificate(s).

S. No.	Name / Jt. Name(s)	Folio No.	Share Cert No(s)		Dist. No(s)		No. of Shares
			From	To	From	To	
1.	AMIT AGARWAL	MHA01511	73917	73917	7391701	7391800	100
TOTAL							100

Any person(s) who has any claim(s) objection(s) in respect of the aforesaid share certificate(s) should lodge such claim / objection in writing with the Company's Registrar and Transfer agent at its office situated at Karys Selenium Tower B, Plot 31-32, Gachibowli, Financial District, Hyderabad - 500032 or with the company at its registered office, within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the Company will consider to give effect to the above request.

For Fortis Malar Hospitals Limited
Sd/-
Daljit Singh
Chairman

Place: New Delhi
Date: 23.06.2021

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a girl **namely Annu, D/o: Ram Niwas, R/o: H.No. D-1/51, Aman Vihar, Kirari, Delhi** has been missing since 28.03.2021 at about 7:00 PM from her home. In this regard DD No. 124 A Dated 30.03.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Aman Vihar, Delhi. The description of missing girl is as under:

Name: Annu, Age: 20 Years, Height: 5', Face: Long, Complexion: Fair, Built: Medium, Wearing: Yellow colour Suit-Salwar and Shoes in Feet

If anyone has any information about this missing girl may kindly inform to the following:-

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO
Police Station, Aman Vihar, Delhi
DP/792/RD/2021 Ph: 011-27581812, 8750870321

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I, DELHI
4TH FLOOR, JEEVAN TARA BUILDING, PARLIAMENT STREET, NEW DELHI-110001
OA No. 1329/2019 Date : 26.04.2021

Bank of India VERSUS **Applicant**

Mrs. Ravinder Kaur Dilawari DEFENDANTS

To,
1. Mrs. Ravinder Kaur Dilawari (Since Deceased) W/o. Sh. Jaspal Singh Dilawari Through Her Legal Heirs
1(a) Mr. Jaspal Singh Dilawari S/o. Iqbal Singh 1(b) Mr. Itender Pal Singh Dilawari S/o. Sh. Jaspal Singh Dilawari Both Residing At A-60, 2nd Floor, Malviya Nagar, New Delhi-110017.
2. Mr. Jaspal Singh Dilawari S/o. Iqbal Singh A-60, 2nd Floor, Malviya Nagar New Delhi-110017.
3. Mr. Itender Pal Singh Dilawari S/o. Sh. Jaspal Singh Dilawari A-60, 2nd Floor, Malviya Nagar New Delhi-110017.

Whereas the above named applicant has instituted a case for recovery of Rs. 28,12,128.00/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Lacs Twelve Thousand One Hundred Twenty Eight Only) against you and whereas it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by advertisement directing you to make appearance before Ld. Registrar on 03.07.2021 at 10.30 A.M. (for further details kindly visit DRT website www.drttribunal.gov.in Phone Number: 011-23748473).

Take notice that in case of your failure to appear on the above mentioned day before this Tribunal, the case will be heard and decided in your absence.

Due to ongoing Pandemic Situation, all the matters will be taken up through Video Conferencing and for that purpose:-
(i) All the advocates/Litigants shall download the "Cisco Webex Application/Software".
(ii) "Meeting ID" and "Password" for the next date of hearing qua cases to be taken by "Registrar/Recovery Officer-I" and Recovery Officer-II shall be available one day prior to the next date at DRT Official Portal i.e. "drt.gov.in" under the Public Notice Head.
(iii) In any exigency qua that, the Advocates/Litigants can contact the concerned official at Ph. No. 011-23748473.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on this 24th May of 2021

By Order of the Tribunal
For Registrar
Respondent my contact under mention Phone Number, for further enquiry.
Mr. Amit K. Dar, Ld. Registrar, DRT-I, New Delhi.
Phone No: 011-23748473, Email: d1delhi-df@nic.in

CSB Bank
Formerly The Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.
(Ashok Vihar Branch located at A-17, Phase-1 Ashok Vihar, New Delhi-110052)
GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

CSB Bank Limited, Ashok Vihar branch had granted gold loan against pledge of gold ornaments to the below mentioned borrowers. Notice has been issued to him/them demanding repayment of the amount with interest and charges thereon. Since they have failed to repay the balance outstanding in the respective accounts, we are constrained to recover the amount by sale of gold ornaments in public auction and if the auction does not fetch required amount, bank will proceed with the sale by private treaties/contract. Bank reserves its right to change/extend the date and venue of auction without assigning any reason.

S. No.	Name of borrower	Gross Weight of Pledge items (in grams)	Overdue Gold Loan Account No.	Amount (in Rs)	Balance as on 20.06.2021 (in Rs)
1	POOJA	73.58	0283-07240711-000004	250000	274496.8/-
2	POOJA	40.1	0283-07240711-000005	113000	122812/-
3	SURESH JINDAL	274	0283-07290699-000001	1000000	991219.76/-
4	PANKAJ ARORA	54.54	0283-04095721-000005	150000	166330/-
5	POOJA ARORA	65.65	0283-04095703-000003	240000	265959/-
6	SANJU	32.07	0283-04093543-000002	105000	117162/-

The auction will be conducted at the premises of CSB Bank Limited, Ashok Vihar branch premises situated at A-17, Phase-1, Ashok Vihar, New Delhi-110052 on 29th June 2021 at 03:00 pm. Interested parties may contact the Branch Manager in the above address. Participants should attend the auction along with copy of Pan Card, passport size photo, valid identity proof and address proof on the date of auction.

Place: New Delhi
Date : 21.06.2021
BRANCH MANAGER

SEARCH FOR MISSING

General public is hereby informed that a female **namely Asha, W/o: Surender, R/o: H.No. 142 Madanpur Dabas, Delhi** has been missing since 11.04.2021 from her house. In this regard DD No. 79A Dated 13.04.2021 has been lodged at Police Station Kanjhawala, Delhi. The description of missing lady is as under:

Name: Asha, Age: 38 Years, Height: 5', Face: Round, Complexion: Shallow, Built: Thin, Wearing: Black Colour Suit-Salwar and Red Colour Chappal in Feet.

If anyone has any information about this missing lady may kindly inform to the following:-

Web: <http://cbi.nic.in>, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in
Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639
SHO
Police Station, Kanjhawala, Delhi
DP/804/RD/2021 Ph: 011-25951486, 8750870324

Immediate ceasefire in Afghan is basic prerequisite for success of peace process: India at UN

United Nations: India said on Tuesday that an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire in Afghanistan is the need of the hour and a "basic prerequisite" for the success of the peace process, as it voiced deep concern at the rising use of violence as a "tool for pressure tactics."

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti told the UN Security Council debate on the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) that the Council had earlier this month strongly condemned the alarming number of attacks deliberately targeting civilians in Afghanistan and had expressed their deep concern about the threat posed by terrorism to Afghanistan and

the region.

"These attacks are aimed at forcing the Afghan people to make pre-determined choices through coercion and spreading fear and intimidation within the society. As Afghanistan's immediate neighbour, we are deeply concerned at the rising use of violence as a tool for pressure tactics," he said.

Tirumurti stressed India believes that an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire in Afghanistan is the need of the hour. "This is not only in the interest of the people of Afghanistan, who have been the victims of unrelenting violence, but a basic prerequisite for the success of the peace process. It goes without saying that talks and violence cannot go hand in hand."

'Go to India or somewhere, to America': Philippines prez to those who don't want to get Covid vaccine

Singapore: Warning that the second wave of the pandemic would be disastrous for the Philippines, President Rodrigo Duterte has threatened to arrest the Filipinos who don't want to get vaccinated against COVID-19 and asked them to leave and "go to India if you want or somewhere, to America."

Speaking during a pre-recorded televised public address on Monday, Duterte said that the country is facing a national emergency and "we must triple our efforts" to contain the virus, according to media reports from Manila.

"Don't get me wrong. There is a crisis being faced in this country. There is a national emergency. If you don't want to get vaccinated, I will have you arrested. And I will inject the vaccine in your butt. You are pests. We are already suffering and you're adding to the burden," Duterte was quoted as saying by INQUIRER.NET.

"So all you Filipinos listening, watch out. Don't force my hand into it... I have a strong arm for that. Nobody likes it. But if you won't get vaccinated, leave the Philippines. Go to India if you are here and you are a human being that can carry the virus, get yourself vaccinated," Duterte, known for his flamboyant and controversial remarks, said.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE No. ELS_KJGY_SRE_T-17 RT2 dtd. 21.06.2021

E-Tendering through E-Tendering are invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRS, Electric Loco Shed, Khanamapura Yard, Northern Railway, Saharanpur (Ambala Division) for and on behalf of the President of India from the registered tenderer on web site www.reps.gov.in for the following work upto 11:00 hrs on the date of closing shown against the work and will be opened thereafter:-

Open Tender No.	ELS_KJGY_SRE_T-17 RT2
Name of work	Repairing and overhauling of ELGI make TRC 1000 MN and TRC1000 MNUG main compressors of WAG-7 Locomotives for one year.
Date of Closing/Opening	13.07.2021
Approx. Cost.	17,88,675.00
Earnest Money	NIL
Completion period	12 Months
Validity period	45 days
Cost of tender form	Free of Cost

1. Tenderer(s) should have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate to participate in E-Tendering of Works Tenders.
2. Tenderer(s) are required to upload self-attested scanned copies of all related eligibility documents as per conditions.
3. Taxes & Charges will be applicable as per extant rule.
4. For details, please log on IREPS website www.ireps.gov.in 1372/2021

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

CHIEF ENGINEER, UTTARAKHAND RURAL ROADS DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
First Floor, Directorate of Panchayati Raj, Opp-PT Park, Sahasradhara Road, Dehradun

Ref. No.: 552/11-02(xix)/ITCO/URRDA/21 Dated : 21-06-2021

PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
e-Procurement Notice-01/2021-22

The Chief Engineer, URRDA on behalf of Governor of Uttarakhand invites the item rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of Roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the Districts of Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Champawat, Dehradun, Nainital, Puri, Pithoragarh, Rudrapur, Tehri & Uttarkashi for 106 number of Package with estimated cost totaling to Rs. 539.47 Crore including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with PWD/CPWD or equivalent".

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement 01-07-2021.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid documents are available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities.

The bidders are required to submit original affidavit correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4 B (ii) of ITB with concern CIRCLE OFFICES, mentioned in SBD/MBD, on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non responsive. No physical documents will be accepted after the closing date and time of submission of bids.

Last Date/Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement 21-07-2021 01:00 PM

For further details please log on to www.pmgstendersuk.gov.in

Chief Engineer,
URRDA, Dehradun.

* Non Registered bidders may submit bids, however, the successful bidders must get registered in appropriate class with appropriate authorities before signing the contract.
Note : For e-Procurement for any sort of queries 0135-2608125 number may be contacted 10:00AM to 05:00PM.

Sitharaman meets Infosys officials

REVIEWS TECH GLITCHES ON NEW I-T E-FILING PORTAL

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday reviewed with Infosys officials the technical glitches that continue to mar the new income tax e-filing portal.

Sitharaman, along with Minister of State for Finance Anurag Thakur, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj, CBDT Chairman Jagannath Mohapatra and other senior ministry officials, went point by point on the issues facing the new portal with officials of Infosys - the vendor which developed the site.

While there was no official word on what transpired at the meeting, a statement issued by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)



Sitharaman (left) with other officials during the meeting.

submitted written inputs highlighting the issues facing the portal as well as areas that need to be fixed.

The stakeholders have also highlighted weak user interface, inability to view old demand, grievances and intimation orders as the issues that need to be fixed. The ICAI in a statement issued after the meeting said that it has been asked to provide its continuous support and inputs to CBDT and Infosys, in resolving the issues, as early as possible.

"The Income Tax Department said the new portal was aimed at making compliance more taxpayer-friendly, however the technical glitches shall be addressed fast, for convenience of all," the ICAI statement

several stakeholders have

Sensex ends flat, retreats from 53,000-mark on profit-booking

PTI ■ MUMBAI

Equity benchmark Sensex ended on a flat note after scaling the 53,000-mark on Tuesday as investors booked profits at higher levels.

A depreciating trend in the rupee also weighed on sentiment, traders said. After touching a lifetime intra-day peak of 53,057.11, the 30-share BSE Sensex settled 14.25 points or 0.03 per cent higher at 52,588.71, marking its third straight session of gains.

Similarly, the broader NSE Nifty rose 26.25 points or 0.17 per cent to close at 15,772.75. Maruti Suzuki, which was the biggest laggard in Monday's session, topped the Sensex gainers' chart on Tuesday with a jump of 5.25 per cent.

L&T, UltraTech Cement, TCS, Titan, Tata Steel and Bajaj Auto were the other winners, advancing up to 2.20 per cent.

On the other hand, Asian

Rupee slumps for second day

Mumbai: The Indian rupee depreciated 27 paise to close at 74.37 against the US dollar on Tuesday in its second straight day of losses following a stronger dollar overseas and elevated crude oil prices. At the interbank forex market, the domestic unit opened weak at 74.18 against the American currency, lost further ground and finally closed at 74.37, showing a fall of 27 paise over its previous close.

Paints, Bajaj Finance, Nestle India, HUL, IndusInd Bank and Sun Pharma were among the major laggards, dropping up to 1.91 per cent.

Markets opened strong on the back of global cues and pick-up in the pace of vaccination. Tuesday's trade saw

Gold gains marginally to ₹46,213; silver declines ₹66,389

New Delhi: Gold in the national capital on Tuesday gained ₹45 to ₹46,213 per 10 gram, according to HDFC Securities.

In the previous trade, the precious metal had closed at ₹46,168 per 10 gram. Silver declined marginally by ₹86 to ₹66,389 per kilogram from ₹66,475 per kilogram in the previous trade.

PTI

BRIEFS

EU INVESTIGATES GOOGLE'S CONDUCT IN DIGITAL AD TECH SECTOR
London: European Union regulators have launched a fresh antitrust investigation of Google, this time over whether the US tech giant is stifling competition in digital advertising technology. The European Commission said Tuesday that it has opened a formal investigation into whether Google violated the bloc's competition rules by favouring its own online display advertising technology services at the expense of rival publishers, advertisers and advertising technology services.

HARSH VARDHAN UNVEILS "MY JOYS AND SORROWS - AS A MOTHER OF A SPECIAL CHILD"
New Delhi: Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare Dr Harshvardhan launched "My Joys and Sorrows - as a Mother of a Special Child", a book written by the widely published author Krishna Saksena, on Sunday. The Minister said the book is an epitome of the bravery and endurance of a mother, in the best tradition of Indian motherhood. The writer, a teacher by vocation, emotionally said that at this juncture of her life she is very much satisfied with the way she has been able to nurture her son Shiv.

INDIA, FIJI SIGN MOU FOR COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURE
New Delhi: India and Fiji on Tuesday signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors. Union Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar and Fiji's Minister of Agriculture, Waterways & Environment Mahendra Reddy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors between India and Fiji. The MoU was signed in a virtual meeting, an official statement said. The MoU will remain valid for a period of five years. Speaking at the event, Tomar said India has helped all the countries during the Covid pandemic under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The prime minister has focused on agriculture and the development of villages from the very beginning, he added.

India's crude output slips 6.3% in May, gas production jumps

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

India's crude oil output fell 6.3 per cent in May after state-owned ONGC produced nearly a tenth less due to cyclone 'Tauktae', government data showed on Tuesday.

Crude oil production at 2.43 million tonne in May was 6.32 per cent lower than 2.6 million tonne output in the same month last year, according to the latest data released by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), the

nation's biggest producer, reported a massive 9.63 per cent drop in output at 1.5 million tonne "due to conditions created by cyclone 'Tauktae'", said. Severe cyclone Tauktae slammed the western coast last month disrupting economic activity. ONGC's main oil and gas producing fields are in western offshore. ONGC also produced over 9 per cent less natural gas but ramping up of output from the KG-D6 block of Reliance Industries Ltd and BP helped lift overall production.

Average return of small cap funds in last 1 year stands around 100%

IAN S ■ MUMBAI

As small cap and midcap funds continue their performance amid the pandemic, an ICICI Securities report has said that the category average return of small cap funds has been around 100 per cent in the past one year.

Small cap funds and midcap funds continue to outperform since last one year with category average return of small cap funds at around 100 per cent in the last one year, it said. Further, the credit risk funds and medium-term funds are outperforming as a stable

yield environment led to higher return in these higher YTM funds. Also, global funds have seen underperformance in the last one year as Indian markets have seen outperformance, noted the report.

Within large cap-oriented ETFs, Nifty Next 50 and Sensex Next 50 have seen outperformance over Nifty 50 ETFs since the last six months. Smart beta ETFs like NV 20/Low Vol 30, Quality 30, among others have underperformed.

Special e-auction of Assam tea generates good response

PTI

Guwahati: The first International Tea Day special auction by mjunction services limited, a leading e-commerce platform, fetched record prices at the Jorhat tea e-marketplace on Monday.

More than 93 per cent of the total teas on offer were sold, with buyers logging in from Assam, West Bengal, Delhi, Gujarat and Rajasthan, mjunction said here on Tuesday.

Fuel price hiked again

New Delhi: Fuel prices increased again across the country on Tuesday adding more misery for the common man already grappling with rising food prices amid shrinking income.

With the rise, petrol prices have reached very close to hitting the century mark all across the country extending the scope of historic high prices that had already made the fuel rate cross the ₹100 per litre mark in certain cities and towns of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh.

IRDAI allows home treatment as add-on cover in health insurance

IAN S ■ CHENNAI

The Indian insurance regulator IRDAI has allowed non-life insurers to offer "homecare/domiciliary treatment" or treatment at home as an add on cover afresh or to their existing policies.

In a circular to all non-life insurers including standalone health insurers, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) said companies have to file

their products with it, if home treatment is offered as an add-on cover. According to IRDAI, homecare treatment is one taken at home for an ailment that normally needs hospitalisation provided that a medical practitioner advises the insured home treatment; there is a continuous active line of treatment with the health status of the insured monitored daily by a medical practitioner during the duration of home treatment.

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 which was scheduled to be held on 23 June 2021 has now been re-scheduled (postponed) to be held on 30 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 periods upto 48 hours of the announcement of all financial results upto 31 March 2021.

For Technofab Engineering Limited
Suman Kumar Verma
Date: 22/06/2021
Place: New Delhi
Company Secretary

NOTICE OF LOSS OF SHARE CERTIFICATES
Notice is hereby given that the following Share Certificates has been reported to be lost/misplaced and the registered holder/claimant therefore has requested the company for issuance of Duplicate share certificates in lieu of lost Shares

S. No.	Name / Jt. Name(s)	Folio No.	Share Certificate No	Dist. No(s)	No. of Shares
1.	Brij Mohan Agarwal	E0320506	1932698	141977851/141977950	100

Any person who has claim(s)/objection(s) in respect of the aforesaid share certificates should lodge such claim/objection in writing with companies registrar and Transfer agents at its office situated at Zuari Finserv Limited "Corporate One", First Floor, 5, Commercial Centre, Jasola New Delhi - 110025 within 15 days of the publication of this notice, failing which the company will consider to give effect to the above purpose.

For CHAMBAL Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited
Place: New Delhi
Date: 23.06.2021
Sd/-
Chairman

RATHI BARS LIMITED
Regd. Office : A-2477, Mohan Co-operative Industrial Estate, Mathura Road, New Delhi-110044
Ph. : 011-42760373, 42730360
Web: www.rathibars.com, E-mail : rathibars@hotmail.com
CIN No: L74899DL1993PLC054781

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Regulation 29 read with Regulation 47 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company will be held on **Wednesday, the 30th Day of June, 2021, at 04.00 P.M.**, inter alia, to consider and approve the Audited Financial Results of the Company for the quarter and year ended on 31st March 2021. This notice is available on the Company's website at www.rathibars.com and also on the website of the stock exchange at www.bseindia.com.

By Order of the Board
For RATHI BARS LIMITED
Sd/-
Satinder Singh
Company Secretary and Compliance Officer
Place : New Delhi
Date : 22.06.2021

DMI Finance Private Limited
CIN - U65929DL2008PTC182749
Express Building, 3rd Floor, 9-10, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110002

STATEMENT OF ANNUAL AUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021

S. No.	Particulars	Audited Current year ending March 31, 2021	Audited Previous Year March 31, 2020
1.	Total Income from Operations	7,644.51	6,446.14
2.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	312.02	1,343.69
3.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	312.02	1,343.69
4.	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	223.08	990.89
5.	Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising Profit/Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	228.06	918.02
6.	Paid up Equity Share Capital	6,436.58	5,592.94
7.	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)	28,417.31	19,167.31
8.	Net worth	34,853.90	24,760.25
9.	Paid up Debt Capital/Outstanding Debt	19,975.17	25,888.85
10.	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares	—	—
11.	Debt Equity Ratio	0.57	1.05
12.	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)		
	1. Basic:	0.35	1.78
	2. Diluted:	0.32	1.77
13.	Capital Redemption Reserve	81.21	81.21
14.	Debenture Redemption Reserve	N.A.	N.A.
15.	Debt Service Coverage Ratio	N.A.	N.A.
16.	Interest Service Coverage Ratio	N.A.	N.A.

Notes to the Financial Results:

- Pursuant to Clause 52 of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, the Audited standalone results for the year ended March 31, 2021 have been reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at their meetings held on June 21, 2021. The above results for the year ended March 31, 2021 have been audited by the Statutory Auditors of the Company.
- The above results are an extract of detailed format of the Audited Annual Financial Results filed with the stock exchange under Regulation 52 of SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. These financial results are available on the website viz. www.dmifinance.in and on the website of BSE (www.bseindia.com).
- The financial results have been prepared in accordance with requirement of Regulation 52 of (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015 as modified by Circular No. CIR/CFD/FAC/62/2016 dated July 5, 2016 read with C/IMD/DF/169/2016 dated August 10, 2016.
- For items referred in sub clauses (a), (b), (d) and (e) of the Regulation 52 of (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, and can be accessed on the website of BSE (www.bseindia.com) and on the Company's website i.e. www.dmifinance.in.
- There is no Debenture Redemption Reserve created as Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFC) registered with Reserve Bank of India are not required to create DRP for privately placed debentures.
- Figures for the prior year / period have been regrouped and / or reclassified wherever considered necessary.
- The Company has provided adequate disclosures related to COVID-19 while submitting financial statements to SEBI.

For DMI Finance Private Limited
Sd/-
Shivashish Chatterjee
Joint Managing Director
Date: June 21, 2021
Place: New Delhi

DHFL National Office: HDL, Towers, B-Wing, 6th Floor, Anant Kanekar Marg, Bandra (East), Mumbai-400051.
Branch office: Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited Dhiraj Bagg, Building 'A', Ground & 1st Floor, Beside Axis Bank, Opp. Monalisa Building, Agra Road, Hari Niwas Circle, Naupada, Thane (West) 400602.

DEMAND NOTICE
Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement Of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The undersigned is the Authorized Officer of Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL) under Securitisation And Reconstruction Of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the Authorized Officer has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the following Borrower(s) ("the said Borrower(s)"), to repay the amounts mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them that are also given below. In connection with above, Notice is hereby given, once again, to the said Borrower(s) to pay to DHFL, within 60 days from the publication of this Notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest as detailed in the said Demand Notice(s), from the date(s) mentioned below till the date of payment and/or realization, payable under the loan agreement read with other documents/writings, if any, executed by the said Borrower(s). As security for due repayment of the loan, the following assets have been mortgaged to DHFL by the said Borrower(s) respectively.

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor(s)	Demand Notice Date and Amount With NPA date	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
(LC No. 00041111 of New Delhi-Pitampura Branch) Nevean Kasera (Borrower) Neeta Agarwal (Co Borrower 1) Tarun Agarwal (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2021/ Rs.6647589/- (Sixty Six lakh Forty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Eighty Nine) NPA (09-01-2021)	Flat No-315, Third Floor Printer Apartments (Printer C.g.h.s Ltd) Block-C-2, Sector-13 Rohini, Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110085
(LC No. 00001429 of New Delhi-west Branch) Dinesh Bhasin (Borrower) Anurag Bhasin (Co Borrower 1) Karika Bhasin (Co Borrower 2) Sidharth Bhasin (Guarantor 1) Sanjay Bhasin (Guarantor 2)	30-04-2021/ Rs.6472952/- (Sixty Four lakh Seventy Two Thousand Nine Hundred Fifty Two) NPA (10-12-2020)	H. No. S-1 / 91 (old Mpl No. 43), G. Fl. Plot No-78a Old Mahavir Nagar Kharsa No. 4 Tikak Nagar New Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110018
(LC No. 00001030 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Manthan Overseas Pvt Ltd (Borrower) Sheel Pasricha (Co Borrower 1) Raj Kumar Pasricha (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2021/ Rs.6420207/- (Sixty Four lakh Twenty Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Seven) NPA (10-04-2020)	Kh No. 852/2 Min. Kh No. 721 Min. 6 Kh No 722 Min. situated At Majra Dakpatti Presently Plot Number 193/5 Rajpur Road Dehradun Dehradun Uttarakhand- 248001
(LC No. 00000702 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Caremed Pharma (Borrower) Ritesh Shivastava (Co Borrower 1) Chetna Gupta (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2021/ Rs.6320677/- (Sixty Three lakh Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Seven) NPA (10-12-2020)	Property No. 9/91-A, Entire Property Shastri Gali Kharsa No. 770, 771 Village Chandrawak, Veshwar Nagar, Shalida, Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110022
(LC No. 00001467 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Nevean Kasera (Borrower) Neeta Agarwal (Co Borrower 1) Dharmveer Asija (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2021/ Rs.6203182/- (Sixty Two lakh Three Thousand One Hundred Eighty Two) NPA (10-12-2020)	Dda Flat No-324, Ground Floor, Mig, Mansarovar Park, Ilaqa Shalida, Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110032
(LC No. 00042350 of Delhi-Pitampura Branch) Sanjay Mittal (Borrower) Seema Mittal (Co Borrower 1) Resham Devi (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2021/ Rs.6122526/- (Sixty One lakh Twenty Two Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Six) NPA (10-12-2020)	3rd Floor (entire), Plot No L-85, Block-L, Sector-12, Pratap Vihar, Ghazabad Ghazabad, UP Ghazabad Uttar Pradesh- 201009
(LC No. 00000966 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Sanjeev Yadav (Borrower) Preeti Yadav (Co Borrower 1) Vijender Yadav (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2021/ Rs.605075/- (Sixty Lakh Five Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Five) NPA (11-05-2020)	Plot No-22 & 24, Third Floor With Right Pocket-03, Sector-11 Rohini Delhi North West Delhi Delhi- 110086
(LC No. 00002473 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Mohammed Manzoor Khan (Borrower) Sheetal (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2021/ Rs.5966441/- (Fifty Nine lakh Sixty Six Thousand Four Hundred Forty One) NPA (11-03-2021)	Prop No A-115, Kh No 18, 25, 26, 22 Block-A, Upper Ground Floor Without Right 234/A, Majlis Park Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110033
(LC No. 00042151 of Delhi-Safdarjung Branch) Mukesh Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Kirti Sharma (Co Borrower 1) Prem Singh Sharma (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2021/ Rs.5688214/- (Fifty Six lakh Eighty Eight Thousand Two Hundred Fourteen) NPA (11-03-2021)	Flat No. 793 Ground Floor Pocket A Sector 17 Dwarka New Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110075
(LC No. 00044536 of Delhi-Safdarjung Branch) Mukesh Kumar Sharma (Borrower) Radhika Devi Maurya (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2021/ Rs.5597121/- (Fifty Five lakh Ninety Seven Thousand One Hundred Twenty One) NPA (10-04-2020)	Property No. 468 & 469 First Floor, kh No-642, VIB-Chandrawak, Mohalla Garha, Circular Road, Shalida, Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110032
(LC No. 00001768 of Noida Branch) Kasna Indane Gas Service (Borrower) Gopal Krishna (Co Borrower 1) Dayachand Sharma (Co Borrower 2) Sakshi Sharma (Guarantor 1)	30-04-2021/ Rs.5575908/- (Fifty Five lakh Seventy Five Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Eight) NPA (10-03-2020)	Plot No - 39 Block - S H Sector-141, Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar Gautambudh Nagar Uttar Pradesh- 201301
(LC No. 00042056 of Delhi-Pitampura Branch) Mohit Rana (Borrower) Deepak Rana (Co Borrower 1) Anita Rana (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2021/ Rs.5462874/- (Fifty Four lakh Sixty Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Four) NPA (10-04-2020)	WZ 26 B, 3rd floor with right, Kharsa No. 2783/738, Rangpur Colony, Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110015
(LC No. 00000468 of Karkarduma Noida Branch) Sandhya Jain (Borrower) Namit Kumar Jain (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2021/ Rs.5435794/- (Fifty Four lakh Thirty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety Four) NPA (09-02-2021)	Property No-a/486, Upper Ground Floor, Front Side, Kh No-434, Gurgaon, Sector-14, Gurgaon, Haryana
(LC No. 00001967 of New Delhi-west Branch) Savita Bhanja (Borrower) Srikanth Bhanja (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2021/ Rs.5297173/- (Fifty Two lakh Ninety Seven Thousand One Hundred Seventy Three) NPA (10-12-2020)	Plot No 92 , Mcd No 826, 2nd Floor Without Right, Noida New Delhi Delhi- 110033
(LC No. 00003212 of New Delhi Branch) Babneet Singh (Borrower) Nirmal Kaur (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2021/ Rs.4890745/- (Forty Eight lakh Ninety Thousand Seven Hundred Forty Five) NPA (01-01-2020)	Unit No. 203, 21st Floor, Apex Tower Supertech Emerald Court, Plot No. 4 Sector 93-A, Noida Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh- 201301
(LC No. 00041399 of Gurgaon-Sohna Road Branch) Hemant Adhikaria (Borrower) Shivani Adhikaria (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2021/ Rs.4650701/- (Forty Six lakh Fifty Thousand Seven Hundred One) NPA (10-12-2020)	Plot No 243/8 First Floor 8 Marle New Colony Palwal Palwal Faridabad Haryana- 121102
(LC No. 00001521 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Mohd Shezi (Borrower) Prema Kaul (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2021/ Rs.4600015/- (Forty Six lakh Three Hundred Fifty Five) NPA (10-12-2020)	Plot No H 1 3rd Floor With Right Kh 480 block H Mohan Garden Village Nawada Nagar Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110059
(LC No. 00043563 of Gurgaon-Sohna Road Branch) Poonam (Borrower) Akash Singh (Co Borrower 1) Anil Kumar (Co Borrower 2)	30-04-2021/ Rs.4558422/- (Forty Five lakh Fifty Eight Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Two) NPA (09-01-2021)	L.i.g. Flat No. 353 Ground Floor Block No C 4c Janak Puri New Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110058
(LC No. 00000814 of Delhi Rajouri Garden Branch) Shivram Singh Yadav (Borrower) Veena Devi (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2021/ Rs.4414382/- (Forty Four lakh Fourteen Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Two) NPA (10-12-2020)	Property No. 173, Second Floor Pocket-11, Sec-24 Rohini Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110085
(LC No. 00042832 of Delhi-Safdarjung Branch) Chander Prakash (Borrower) Geeta Rani (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2021/ Rs.4402863/- (Forty Four lakh Two Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty Three) NPA (09-01-2021)	Plot No. D-1521, Upper Ground & 1st Floor, Old No. 6487 (Part) Kh No. 752 Gali No. 13, VIB, Gokal Pur Ashok Nagar Shalida Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110093
(LC No. 00001874 of Noida 1 Rajendra Place Branch) Vivek Kumar Verma (Borrower) Shankar Sharma (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2021/ Rs.4383714/- (Forty Three lakh Eighty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fourteen) NPA (09-01-2021)	Flat No-s-4, Plot No. J-43, Second Floor Rear Lhs, West Jyoti Nagar, Chandrawak, Nr-durga Puri Chowk Shalida New Delhi Delhi- 110032
(LC No. 0000004 of Lajpat Nagar Branch) Om Kumar Pandey (Borrower) Piyanka Kumari (Co Borrower 1) Brisk Infonet Pvt Ltd (Co Borrower 2) Dharmendra Kumar Singh (Guarantor 1)	30-04-2021/ Rs.4368671/- (Forty Three lakh Sixty Eight Thousand Six Hundred Seventy One) NPA (09-02-2021)	Unit No E 33 Type E Plot No. Bgh A Paramount Golf Foreste Site C Opp Sector Zeta Greater Noida Gautam Buddha Nagar Uttar Pradesh- 201303
(LC No. 00000521 of Netaji Subhash Place Branch) Yogesh Singh (Borrower) Kamla Singh (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2021/ Rs.4285732/- (Forty Two lakh Eighty Five Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Two) NPA (11-05-2020)	At Plot No. A-268, Ground Floor Block A, Vijay Nagar, New Delhi New Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110009
(LC No. 00000126 of Dwarka Kanika Pradeep Mishra (Borrower) Ranjan Mishra (Co Borrower 1)	30-04-2021/ Rs.4176096/- (Forty One lakh Seventy Six Thousand Ninety Six) NPA (10-12-2020)	Plot No-08 Pocket No-02 Sector-25, Rohini Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110085
(LC No. 00005008 of New Delhi Branch) Anurag Gupta And Sons (Borrower) Alok Gupta (Co Borrower 1) Pranved Gupta (Co Borrower 2) Suman Gupta (Guarantor 1)	30-04-2021/ Rs.4148170/- (Forty One lakh Forty One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy) NPA (09-02-2021)	Property No. B-12, Second Floor Front Side Without Right, Dr. Lohia Road Adarsh Ngr Kh No-262/258/21/4 Village Shalida, Delhi New Delhi Delhi- 110033

If the said Borrowers shall fail to make payment to DHFL as aforesaid, DHFL shall proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the Act from transferring the aforesaid assets, whether by way of sale, lease or otherwise without the prior written consent of DHFL. Any person who contravenes or abets contravention of the provisions of the said Act or Rules made there under, shall be liable for imprisonment and/or penalty as provided under the Act.

Sd/-
(Authorised Officer)
Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited
Date: 23-06-2021
Place: Delhi

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION, BULDANA, IN FRONT OF BUS STAND- 443001
email - buldhana.ee@mahapwd.com Telephone no. 07262 254897
Fax No.07263 255248

E-TENDER NOTICE No.20/ 2021-22

Sr. No	Name of work	Tender Cost
1	Construction of Tramacare Centre At Mehekar Tq.Mehekar Dist Buldhana	6,09,28,211/-
2	Widening And Improvement To Pangarkhed Belga	



IN CORPORATE STYLE

The future of corporate e-learning holds potential in reshaping the landscape for the learning and development department, says SAMEER NIGAM

The growing relevance of the digital world has pushed modern corporations to stay ahead of the curve. From learning needs and habits to learning behaviour, Modern corporates are incorporating huge changes at their workplaces. But the onset of the pandemic made it necessary more than ever. Corporations have had to pivot to work-from-home models almost overnight and become more receptive to the un-called change to brave through the pandemic and its aftereffects. Especially in these uncertain times, it became imperative to invest in upskilling of the workforce and leveraging technology-aided e-learning solutions to get things done.

As corporates enabled e-learning during this pandemic, employees became more adaptive to learning curves. Learning and development were accessed efficiently, and still, effectively maintained productivity while

supporting social and physical distancing. With e-learning, the knowledge gap between conventional employees and modern workers blurred out and witnessed the beginning of a new decade of ample opportunities, the latest technology, and further innovations.

The future of corporate e-learning holds immense potential in reshaping the landscape for the learning and development department. So, what does the new normal corporate learning look like? Here are some e-learning tools that are going to make the future bright.

Video-based learning: Learnings based on video is seen as a more interactive experience in the training process as they are faster and effective in understanding the learning. The increasing use of social media and mobile learning has also captivated the need for video-based learning tools. This builds connections and community



THE INCREASING USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND MOBILE LEARNING HAS CAPTIVATED THE NEED FOR VIDEO-BASED LEARNING TOOLS. THIS BUILDS CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNITY THAT CAN INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY EVEN WHEN WORKING APART

that can increase productivity even when working apart.

Micro-learning: The adoption of micro-learning is growing slowly. Organisations are incorporating shorter video formats for learning as more social, mobile, interactive, and user-friendly learning is demanded. The tool makes it easier to create quick, accessible training for employees right when they need it the most and encourage them to apply the learning immediately.

mLearning or Mobile-based learning: Unlike conventional training methods, mLearning provides numerous benefits such as flexibility, scheduling, access to more content, etc. Also, it offers an enhanced experience to the learner including chat features, and audio/videos, the option to record information, better assessments, etc. Many organisations are already unleashing their potential as the mobile learning industry is expected to

grow 10X in the coming times.

AR and VR-based learning: Building real-world opportunities; AR and VR-based learning are considered as the future of corporate eLearning. With working from home posing difficulties in providing on-the-job training, VR and Augmented Reality (AR) tools are deploying complex environments and cases to the employees to ascertain their real-life reactions and learning's based on it.

Game-based learning: With more and more organisations working towards building an immersive learning experience for their employees, game-based learning tools are assisting them in combining businesses and training in an immersive way. As an alternative to the traditional tool of learning, this tool increases engagement and motivation amongst employees while also throwing real-world problems through game designs.

AI based learning: These futuristic learning tools are a great indicator for employee performance analysis. AI is assisting the modern workforces to identify skills they want to apply at work. AI and learning automation are helping corporates in delivering performance-driven and ROI-inclined solutions and also enabling them to upskill the workforce.

Undoubtedly, the above-discussed sought-after e-learning tools are going to reinvent the whole process of corporate e-learning while also making it relevant for the new-age workforce. Digital learning are here to stay and the use of e-learning tools and advanced technology will enable corporates to maintain a productive and healthy workforce. Going forward, corporate learning will be more about bringing learning to the learners than learners to the learning.

The writer is CEO & Co-founder, Stratbeans

QUOTE OF THE DAY

The man who reads nothing at all is better educated than the man who reads nothing but newspapers.
— Thomas Jefferson

9th E-commerce Day

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Following its tradition to create a highly anticipated and exclusive entrepreneurial opportunity for the budding entrepreneurs and e-commerce enthusiasts, Droom hosted its ninth edition of its annual E-commerce Day on June 21, 2021.

The event saw active participation of over 600 attendees from renowned business schools, technical institutes, budding entrepreneurs and e-commerce buffs. The event consisted of numerous sessions, which allowed the attendees to directly interact with Droom's Founder & CEO, Sandeep Aggarwal and other dynamic leadership members of the company.

Students from reputed universities/colleges such as IIM Ahmedabad, IIM Kozhikode, IIM Indore, IIM Kashipur and many others, participated in the event and learned the nuances of entrepreneurship and the e-commerce industry through multiple fascinating sessions.

It was a highly interactive event, filled with pep talks and brainstorming sessions, showcasing Droom's unicorn journey highlights. Furthermore, through experience sharing sessions, Aggarwal and Droom's leadership shared challenges and potential solutions of their professional journey and advised the young entrepreneurs to build on their ideas & passion. At the event, Aggarwal continuously emphasised the role of new-age technologies and transformation brought by digital and modernistic approach in all industries and domains.

In his keynote address, Aggarwal said, "Our annual meet-up of e-commerce day event is planned to ensure that the youth are armed to take on any hurdle that comes their way and make the most of this growing industry. We feel that these budding entrepreneurs will be making history in the entrepreneurship and economic growth segment of the country, and we plan to back them in all possible aspects."

Yoga Day celebration

The seventh International Yoga Day was observed by KIIT Group of Institutions & KISS on June 21, 2021 online. The theme of the International Yoga Day for this year was "Yoga for Fitness". On this occasion, Dr Gaganendu Dash, Director Sports, KIIT & KISS, delivered the introduction speech and read out the message of the founder which said: "Yoga is the ancient custom of India and it is India's best gift to the global community. It is often seen that more people are being attracted towards yoga around the world nowadays. While, it brings wonders to our body, during the pandemic, yoga is creating miracles to mitigate mental stress of the people."

Among others, Prof Hrushikesh Mohanty, VC of KIIT DU; Prof Sasmaita Samanta, Pro VC; Prof Jnyana Ranjan Mohanty, Registrar, KIIT DU; and Dr Prasanta Kumar Routray, CEO of KISS laid focus on the advantages of various aspects of some foremost yoga asanas.

Some staff members of KIT and KISS practiced various postures of yoga under the guidance of the Yoga Coach of KIIT & KISS.



Find your way forward

There is now a possibility that more students may meet the eligibility criteria set by foreign universities, since these will not be contingent on Board results anymore, says ADARSH KHANDELWAL

The Board exams have now been replaced by "well-defined objective criteria", according to the Government's notification on the same. The CBSE Board will follow a 30:30:40 criteria, with 30 per cent of weightage given to the Class X Board exam results, 30 per cent to Class XI final results, and 40 per cent to the Class XII Pre-Board or internal assignment results (flexibility for which has been given to schools). The results are to be announced before July 31.

What does this mean for students applying abroad? With around 14 lakh students who would take Class XII CBSE Boards, of which a significant portion will apply abroad, there is now the possibility that even more students may meet the eligibility criteria set by foreign universities, as these will not be contingent on Board results anymore.

January 2021 has already seen over 10.9 lakh Indian students enrolled in universities abroad — a number that was expected to rise this year with students who had deferred

their 2020 admits or were awaiting a relaxation in pandemic restrictions around the world. As the scope of the marking criteria has been increased, there is a slight chance that universities might introduce a foundation course or prerequisite programme that applicants would need to complete before they can be offered admission. The latest ruling may also not do justice to the students who are already applying for external exams and courses, having thought that these may be preferred in place of a variable predictive score. For future test takers and aspirants, it also reiterates the importance of academic consistency and continuous assessment throughout the school year, not merely during Boards.

What will be the impact of this possibility on country-specific applications?

UK, Ireland, Australia: The term commencement dates for universities in the UK and Ireland are usually in September-October, with many institutions requiring academic transcripts and final

scores before they can make an admission offer. Now that there is a confirmed marking process and date for the release of results, students can breathe a sigh of relief about their application timeline.

The only challenge we can see here is if universities rescind their conditional offers due to the updated grades the student has received. Many students bank on the Board finals to showcase their academic strength while not preparing as intensively for their internal assessments or Class X/XI exams. Their new scores may not reflect their academic potential accurately and may not meet university cut-offs. While the CBSE Board has stated that those who are unsatisfied with the new marking scheme can take the Board exams later when the pandemic regulations ease, this is not feasible for international applicants who are already operating on a tight timeline.

US & Canada: As universities in these regions accept students with unconditional offers from the get go, there

may not be as much of a hiccup, provided that the student relays the complexity of the situation to the university.

In Canada, some universities like McMaster and Waterloo are providing unconditional offers on the basis of their predictive scores. Here too, the process would continue as usual, and the new marking system could still be applied for scholarship applications that depend on the student's scores.

As a student, what can you do at this time?

Write to the university and the relevant authorities, explaining the new developments in the Board exam scenario. Check with your school to see what marking scheme they are opting to follow in terms of the 40 per cent weightage for Class XII assessments. If you have been placed on a waiting list, ensure that you send out periodic emails to register your continued interest and detail all the newly added information or updates in your profile and application status.

In the meantime, you can network and liaise with other international aspirants, university connections, and industry figures to ensure that you are kept in the loop about what could change, how others are evaluating and adapting to the circumstances, and any other opportunities that you can avail of while you wait.

The writer is Co-founder, Collegify

For a beautiful future

NAINA RUHAIL lists trends that will play a vital role in shaping one's future in the beauty industry

In recent times, the beauty industry has seen a significant shift with everyone making eco-conscious choices. It is the era of 'end of more' and getting back to basics. No longer one cares for beauty for the sake of beauty, now it's beauty for the sake of you. With most of us stuck at home during these unprecedented times, it's important more than ever to spend time pampering your skin, consciously. From DIY masks, tonics, and a better understanding of what works best with the increased awareness, it will be the dawn of clean beauty as an answer to the future of the ever-growing beauty industry. If you want to succeed in the beauty industry take a look at the prospects of the beauty arena and understand it better to get ahead.

Consumer choices to anticipate in the beauty industry

The consumer today is making conscious choices towards eco-friendly, sustainable, toxin, and cruelty-free products. This new guilt-free beauty norm is all about organic and natural ingredients to leave skin healthy and hair lustrous. Clean signifies beauty products that are free from nasties with nothing artificial than the goodness of nature. On the other hand, all the ingredients are sustainably sourced to unburden the natural resources while incorporating recycling practices to be eco-friendlier.



Knowing what the consumers demand will help you understand their needs and tweak your products according to their preference, ensuring a long-lasting relationship.

Here are the top trends that you need to know that will play a vital role in shaping the beauty landscape. If you inculcate these within your profession, you will surely be successful in building your brand and building trust with your consumers.

Building trust within the community
Nothing grows the community stronger than a common interest. An authentic, personal review helps build trust and interest that will effectively boom the industry as well as an increase in the con-

sumer base. This aspect will definitely play a vital role in the near future.

Be part of inclusive beauty standards
A beauty consumer always often looks for cues from the closest to them, appropriate to their age, skin type, age, and ethnicity. They expect a brand to be inclusive and cater to all colours, shapes and sizes in the most realistic ways.

Deliver hassle-free beauty at doorstep
When the world has come to a still, we have understood that the way we connect with beauty has changed completely. Its do-it-yourself-beauty encouraged some small changes like — comprehensive skin and hair care regime, less use of mascara, we all became our own groomers, manicurists, and colourists. This shift has increased the requirement of interactive, impressive at-home deliveries.

Be sustainable and transparent
Recycling beauty products is another trend that is reaping interest. With this practice, you don't have to discard your empties that will end up going into the landfills. Instead, it will be reused. By bestowing an afterlife to your product empty, you will surely make a difference in the environment.

If you incorporate these practices, you will surely be able to build an authentic, sustainable and successful brand.

The writer is Co-founder, Vanity Wagon

Webinar on Global Compact on Refugees

On the occasion of World Refugee Day, VIT-AP School of Law, VIT-AP University, Andhra Pradesh, organised an event on June 21, 2021 jointly with the Centre for Statelessness and Refugee Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, along with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, India.

The inaugural session followed by national webinar on Global Compact on Refugees in fostering Laws, Policies and Practices vis-à-vis Protection

and care.

The daylong national webinar deliberated upon the importance of Global Compact on Refugees and reminded the State parties to be bound by the obligations of the sovereign States. Experts from academia, civil society, practitioners, refugee organisations and students have participated in the programme.

The Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) has following broad four objectives: (i) ease pressures on host countries; (ii) enhance refugee self-reliance; (iii) expand access to third coun-

try solutions; and (iv) support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity, with relevant indicators framework. Are the objectives specified in GCR, recast of earlier durable solutions? Or do they have new meaning in text and context was discussed in national webinar.

Yukiko Koyama, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR, India stressed upon the relevance of Global Compact on Refugees for the protection of the refugees and Stateless people across the world.

Dr Arvind Tiwari Dean

School of Law TISS, Mumbai gave the presidential address and Prof Samir Kumar Das, Former Vice-Chancellor of University of North Bengal delivered the keynote address.

Dr Parivrelan K.M Chairperson of Centre for Statelessness and Refugee Studies at TISS Mumbai explained the importance of the occasion. Dr Benarji Chakka, Dean, VSL, welcomed the chief guest, participant, students, faculty and staff and chaired the session on Global Compact on Refugees and Legal and Policy issues.



BE EVERGREEN

Environment plays an important role in our lives. This has opened plenty of lucrative options in the field in India as well as abroad, says DR MUKESH KWATRA

Environment isn't one subject but an associate integration of many subjects that embrace each other, like Science and Social Studies. It teaches us about sustainable way of living together with environment. Therefore the scope of environmental studies is very wide and covers some aspects of nearly each major discipline. It offers an overplus of job chance for environmental scientists, biologists, engineers, modellers and journalists.

Environmental scientists find opportunities in the mining industry, plant food industry, textile and dyeing industry, food processing units and bio fuel industry. After holding a degree in this field you get a variability of careers to choose from and that could be from Government, personal organisations or from plentiful of alternative industries.

One can also consider a teaching job in schools or universities. Several private organisations like food processing industries, refineries, distilleries and plant food industries are providing various job opportunities for the graduates in this field.

Aspirants doing various courses in environment field, can apply for a research degree in Government organisations. MSc degree holding candidates can find many lucrative career opportunities in India as well as abroad in Environmental Science.

Environmental Professor: The scope of

environment studies is tremendously growing in recent years with cutting-edge research and continuous innovation in the field. Researchers find Environmental Professor as a lucrative career choice. If you want to be a part of this highly paid job in government and private sectors then pursue a desired degree to achieve success.

Environmental Engineering: It is a job type in which environmentalists utilise the knowledge of engineering thus acquired in soil science, hydraulics, chemistry etc to evolve answers for ecological issues. They are also better equipped to address global issues, such as ecological disparity, water issues, climate change, and environmental sustainability. If you choose to start your career at the right place, you are bound to attain heights in your career. It offers you plenty of opportunities to work on broad range of fields.

Environmental Biologists: They are scientists who study how living organisms interact with each other, their environments and surroundings. In this field one can work as field technicians, laboratory technicians, researchers for private or government laboratories, or as independent contractors.

Environmental Scientists: They are the ones who use their knowledge of natural science to protect the environment and human health. Environment scientists are employed with mines, agencies involved in

ENVIRONMENT SCIENTISTS ARE EMPLOYED WITH MINES, AGENCIES INVOLVED IN CLEANING UP OF POLLUTED AREAS, DYING INDUSTRY, FERTILISER INDUSTRY, AS ADVISORY TO POLICYMAKERS, OR WORK WITH WASTE MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

cleaning up of polluted areas, dying industry, fertiliser industry, as advisory to policymakers, or work with waste management concerns.

This sector provides plethora of highly paid job opportunities. You can be employed by various Government organisations like Pollution Control Board, Water Authority, Waste management and Urban Planning.

Environmental Journalist: With a lot of media attention off late to environment concerns, reporting on environmental problems is at the rise. People search for complete information associated with the surroundings, for this reason there is an increase in the demand for environmental journalists.

One may also opt for jobs in fertiliser plants and can also work in food processing companies as managers. Besides, regarding the environment issues many NGOs are coming up to take up and work upon to find solutions to the various Environment concerns. According to one's interest, one can also join these organisations.

There is plenty of opportunities, abundance of jobs and various paths a diploma holder in environment field can choose to take. In addition, the earning hereinafter offer a reasonable possibility to clear scholar mortgage debts if any and take care of their family in future.

The writer is founder, Smiling Tree

'Scale start-up in Canada'

The country has announced investments of \$55.1 million in clean technology companies. This has opened doors for opportunities, says ESHA CHOPRA

The dynamic start-up scene in Toronto, Canada is gaining momentum with early-stage start-up founders. In a 2020 report by StartupBlink, Canada ranked third in the world for COVID-19 innovation, and Toronto ranked fourth in the world. Here are some reasons why you should consider moving your start-up in Canada:

Tech-innovation: In a bid to lay the groundwork for a greener, stronger and more resilient economy, the Canadian Government has made investments in technology innovations. In early 2021, the Honourable François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, announced investments of \$55.1 million in clean technology companies across Canada. This funding will support small and medium-sized companies that are developing innovative solutions to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lessen the environmental impacts of conventional mining methods and support more sustainable agricultural practices.

Government incentives: The Canadian Government has special programmes for entrepreneurs around the world wanting to scale in the North American market. The Start-up Visa Program is designed for international entrepreneurs with businesses that are innovative and have the potential to grow in Canada. The program offers Permanent Residence to entrepreneurs to help support them in their growth story.

Funding: The Canadian Venture Capital & Private Equity Association boasts dozens of members and tracks deals by region and amount. According to its data, the Canadian venture capital market is booming. According to KPMG's report in April 2021, Canadian venture funding hit a record high of \$2.49 billion in the first quarter of 2021, solidifying Canada's position as a global start-up hub.

Availability of top talent: Fueled by a strong set of universities, the student-friendly immigration policies allow talented individuals from around the world to join workforce in Canada



Esha Chopra
Director Strategy and Marketing,
Toronto Business Development Centre

every year. Top technical universities like University of Toronto, the University of BC and McGill and Waterloo offer access to workforce without cutthroat competitiveness of Silicon Valley.

Proximity to software giants and financial institutions: Financial Institutions like JP Morgan, Citi, Morgan Stanley etc and software moguls like Amazon, Microsoft, Facebook among others all have a growing footprint in Canada.

Start-up culture: Successful start-ups like Slack, Shopify, FreshBooks, Tunnel Bear, Wattpad, Hootsuite and others were founded in Canada and continue to thrive. The impact of COVID-19 has not curtailed investment in Canadian technology and other high-growth sectors like ed-tech, healthcare, fintech and AI.

Diverse community: Canada boasts one of the highest percentages of foreign-born citizens than any other G8 country and is home to more than 14 million people with over 200 languages spoken. This cultural boiling pot makes a great home for a start-up founder and his family looking for a place to thrive in.

Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, morals, beliefs, and habits. If this were to be true, then we all should be very well aware as to what are the skills, values, morals, beliefs, habits and knowledge that a student is likely to possess after a specific number of years of education. What are the deliverables that the present education system is promising to our children? What are the short term and long term education objectives that have been determined? What can we expect from the educated after a specific number of years?

With loads of information and data, children today have been made to feel as if

they are totally in the unknown and that they need to learn from the text books which are the Gospels of truth and knowledge.

Without going into how the syllabus has been structured to meet the larger objective, children burn the midnight oil to master the information. Some score 100 per cent and some 40 per cent. The student who scores 100 per cent develops the attitude that he knows it all and that the one with 40 per cent feels that if he were to master the books, it would give him taste of eternal knowledge.

The point in question here is what should be the goal of education? Whether the present day education system is achieving that goal? What is the set of specific and broad goals that our children

MINDIT

should acquire after a long 14-15 years of school education? Has the end become more important than the process?

Without going into the correlation of the education goals with the subjects and syllabus being covered in schools; even for a moment if we say all is well; why does the system needs to send hundreds of changes/additional circulars to schools on newer practices almost on regular basis? Even it being so, we may like to conclude that the system is ever evolving, ever expanding, ever developing. So isn't the

process standardised to not achieve the goal which is supposedly earmarked in the first place, that we need to keep adding newer activities every week or fortnight as additional curriculum. Why doesn't the system delete some activities which may become redundant. It is anybody's guess that no school would be able to complete the set of stipulated exercises as enshrined in the system's requirement. Is this a calculated way of putting the schools on back foot to always?

Where are the parents in the process?

They are the most important stake-holders. Do the parents even know about the teaching objectives or what they can expect their children to be after they pass out Class XII? Or is it too mechanical that everything that goes in the system comes out and further goes in and then again comes out and on and on. What is the accountability of the system? With school toppers languishing in jails, being unemployed, most disillusioned, with no morals, values, beliefs and habits, it is high time we have a re-look at the education system of today.

Let's take the exam system; it can be anything except being perfect. The focus of all school children, teachers and parents is on examination. Exams are not adjusted

The writer is Sachin Gupta, Chancellor, Sanskriti University

December 1, 2021.

The Vienna University of Technology invites applications for Helmut Veith Stipend for International Female Students in Austria, 2021.

Eligibility: International female candidates. Join a master's degree programme in the field of Computer Science. Must have extensive knowledge in Logic in Computer science, formal methods and verification, the foundation of artificial intelligence, complexity theory, and computer security.

How to apply: After taking admission, submit a PDF file through email to master-at-logic-cs.at. PDF file must contain: Cover letter describing type of fund student is applying for, CV, motivation letter, reports on university examinations (transcripts), diplomas and/or certificates (first degree, bachelor degree, or higher). If the final academic certificate is not yet available at the time of the application deadline, a preliminary certificate (type of degree and the expected graduation date) signed and stamped by the degree-awarding university must be provided. Contact details of two referees (for letters of recommendation). English language certificate (TOEFL or similar). Copy of passport. You are asked to show your English language ability through the TOEFL or IELTS test.

Application deadline: The last date is November 30, 2021.

- ANDROID APP DEVELOPMENT AT WEDNESDAY SOLUTIONS**
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/058111
Deadline: July 1, 2021
- IOS APP DEVELOPMENT AT WEDNESDAY SOLUTIONS**
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/563f62
Deadline: July 1, 2021
- EMAIL MARKETING AT NEHANET CORPORATION**
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/99fc73
Deadline: July 1, 2021
- RESEARCH (DISASTER MGT & CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION) AT SPHERE INDIA**
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹18,000-₹25,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/d6df15
Deadline: July 1, 2021
- OPERATIONS AT K2PICTURES**
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/0cc6fd
Deadline: July 1, 2021
- MARKETING AT THINK & LEARN PRIVATE LIMITED (BYJU'S)**
Location: Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Rourkela
Stipend: ₹18,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/189aa0
Deadline: June 28, 2021
- JUNIOR SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING ASSOCIATE JOB AT GLU STUDIOS**
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹3-₹3.6 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/ef6d3c
Deadline: July 17, 2021
Skill(s): Social Media Marketing

IN BRIEF

ZSA TO IMPROVE EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

The Zupee, online gaming company, has announced the launch of their skilling academy, which will impart employable skills and promote equal opportunities in the youth of the country. Zupee Skilling Academy (ZSA) will be a first-of-its-kind mission by a corporation, aimed at skilling, upskilling and educating young, disadvantaged Indians.

The idea is to prepare them for the future by getting them ready through skill training and ensuring that everyone in the programme has equal opportunities for employment.

The participants will be trained in concepts like search engine optimisation, running search ads, social media marketing and analytics, all highly desirable skillsets that prepare them for jobs of the future.

Dr Subi Chaturvedi, Chief Corporate and Public Affairs Officer, Zupee said: "We are delighted to launch ZSA. The aim is to raise target population's quality of life, leading to overall community development in the long run. With Together with NIIT Foundation, we will be providing certification courses that will prepare the marginalised sections of Mumbai youth with employment opportunities."

NZ PARTNERS WITH FUTURELEARN

Education New Zealand has announced partnership with FutureLearn which will provide courses from more than 15 New Zealand education providers on one centralised platform to reach 15 million-plus learners worldwide.

The courses have options for learners and teachers in sustainable agriculture, Te Reo Maori and English language.

NEW COURSE FOR CRIMINAL LAWYERS

The SVKM's NMIMS Deemed-to-be-University has introduced Criminal Law as a new specialisation in its Master of law (LLM) programme at Kirit P Mehta School of Law.. The one-year PG course specifically designed for working professionals, aims to create stalwart criminal lawyers in order to meet the critical and challenging requirements.

To be eligible, the candidate should hold a L.B. degree from a recognised university, with a minimum of 50 per cent aggregate marks. Candidates appearing for the final year examinations are also eligible to apply.

- INNOVATIVE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY AT RICS**

The RICS School of Built Environment (SBE) Amity University has implemented an innovative internship idea for its present students. Keeping in view the pre-emptive pandemic, the institute has innovatively transformed the internships into intensive research projects based on the specific needs of the industry which the students have undertaken from their homes.

The internship team has brainstormed and prepared a list of research topics related to issues for which the industry is looking for answers. According to their interests, students have chosen their internship projects and assigned a mentor and industry veteran who would guide them through their research.

Ashwani Awasthi, MD said: "The institute has innovatively transformed the internship process into an intensive research project-based internship focused on the specific needs of the industry organizations. These internships have evolved after a significant thinking and effort to ensure that students are able to receive as close to real-world experience as feasible given the current challenging circumstances."

- BOOTCAMP-LEARNING FOR CLASSES V TO X**

The GlobalGyan Academy of Management Education, has launched its Youth Leadership Programs, Laksh and Laksh Junior. The programmes offered to students of Classes V-VII (Laksh Junior) and Classes VIII-X (Laksh) are designed to build the life-skills that are essential for their future. Students participate in a two-month long bootcamp-style learning model, which includes live instructor-led classes, assignments, group projects, quizzes and video content.

The programmes provide an experiential learning to students to unleash and discover their capabilities. The interactive workshops and activities help build five essential mindsets — problem-solving, persuasive communication, leadership, creativity and wealth-creation.

Srinivasa Addepalli, CEO of GlobalGyan Academy, said: "We are excited to extend our knowledge and present a vision to middle and high school students. This aligns with our purpose of democratising access to high-quality, practical learning."

To register kindly visit: <https://lakshleaders.com>

- MOU TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES IN GOVERNANCE REFORMS**

The Kautilya School of Public Policy, Gitam, deemed to be university, Hyderabad inked an MoU with the Daksh Society to promote better governance and improve the justice system, through data-based analysis.

Under the MoU, both the institutions will conduct supportive, non-partisan, and interdisciplinary research on varied aspects of the justice system. The research will come up with inclusive, transparent, and self-correcting mechanisms to encourage accountability across all branches of the Government.

The students will be engaged through internships and capstone projects giving them a firsthand experience and aiding a clear conception of how system works. This will empower the students and help them understand critical concepts in accountability, transparency, and governance.

STAR WARS



Mikkel Damsgaard, center, celebrates after scoring Denmark's opening goal during the Euro 2020 Group B match between Russia and Denmark in Copenhagen AP

AFP ■ COPENHAGEN

Denmark made it through to the last 16 of Euro 2020 on Monday after a convincing 4-1 win over Russia which alongside Belgium's victory against Finland meant they finished second in Group B.

Goals from Mikkel Damsgaard, Yussuf Poulsen, Andreas Christensen and Joakim Maehle gave the Danes their first win of the tournament on a joyous evening at the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen.

Delirious fans showered each other with beer as Denmark rattled in the goals that allowed them to end the group stage in party mood after the trauma of Christian Eriksen's mid-match collapse in their opening fixture against the Finns.

Denmark will face Wales in the last 16 in Amsterdam on Saturday.

The Danes came into the match with no points from

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE = MADE POSSIBLE

Denmark finish **SECOND** in Group B after sensational 4-1 victory over Russia & qualify for knockouts

their first two matches but knowing a win over Russia by two goals or more and defeat for Finland would guarantee them passage from the group as the second-placed team.

It was the Russians who had the first chance of the game, Aleksandr Golovin driving towards the goal and fashioning a great scoring opportunity only to shoot straight at Kasper

Schmeichel from close range.

DAMSGAARD'S MOMENT

They were left to rue missing that chance six minutes before the break when Damsgaard showed why he was picked to replace Eriksen as Denmark's playmaker.

The Sampdoria winger, who only turns 21 early next month, looked like he had all

the time in the world when he unleashed a curling strike that whipped past Matvei Safonov and caused an eruption of celebrations in the stands.

Denmark second came in almost comical circumstances on the hour mark.

Poulsen could hardly believe his luck when Daler Kuzyaev's miscued back-pass rolled straight to him in front of the Russian goal, leaving him the simple task of rolling into an empty net and giving Denmark the two-goal lead they needed to finish second should Belgium win.

Soon after the already rowdy fans in the Parken let out possibly the loudest cheer of the night as news of Romelu Lukaku's opener against Finland filtered through, but they were soon dampened by that goal being ruled out and Russia being awarded a penalty which was slotted home by Artem Dzyuba.

They were on their feet again with 15 minutes remain-

ing thanks to Lukas Hradecky's own goal which put Belgium a goal ahead and Denmark in second place.

Denmark were now charging forward and Safonov had to pull off three incredible saves in quick succession before Christensen rammed home a superb long-range strike in the 79th minute.

As the fans, who had made a tremendous racket all game, began their celebrations for making the knockout stage, Denmark ended the group stage in style when Maehle slotted home the fourth three minutes later to complete a perfect evening.

BELGIUM FINISH 1ST

In other Group B game in Saint Petersburg, Belgium scored two late goals to see off a valiant Finland 2-0, pushing their opponents to the brink of a group-stage exit.

Finnish goalkeeper Lukas Hradecky's 74th-minute own goal and Romelu Lukaku's third strike of the tournament ensured Roberto Martinez's Belgium finished top of Group B.

The world's number-one ranked side will face a third-placed team in the next round on Sunday in Seville.

Finland finish third in the group, but appear unlikely to be one of the four best third-placed teams.

5 MAKE IT THROUGH

Five teams advanced to the round of 16 without even playing at the Euro 2020.

France, England, the Czech Republic, Sweden and Switzerland all are assured of advancing because they have four points and will finish no worse than third in their groups.

Results in the final Group B and C games have left Finland and Ukraine in third place in the respective standings with three points. That means any team with four points is guaranteed to be at least among the four best third-placed teams.

Finland and Ukraine have not yet been eliminated. Results in Group D on Tuesday and Group E on Wednesday could leave those third-place finishers with only two points.

Mount, Chilwell to isolate until June 28

London: England will be without Chelsea duo Mason Mount and Ben Chilwell for their final Euro 2020 Group D match on Tuesday against the Czech Republic and potentially their last-16 tie, after the pair were forced to isolate following exposure to an opponent who has Covid-19.

Mount and Chilwell were seen embracing their club teammate Billy Gilmour after Friday's 0-0 draw between England and Scotland. Gilmour tested positive on Monday.

England have already qualified ahead of the Czech Republic's visit to Wembley and if they beat the Czechs to win the group, they will play their last 16 match at Wembley on June 29, giving both players a chance to feature.

Second place in the group would see Southgate's men travel to Copenhagen on June 28.

"We can confirm that Ben Chilwell and Mason Mount must isolate up to and including next Monday (28 June). This decision has been taken in consultation with Public Health England," the English Football Association said in a statement.

"Chilwell and Mount will isolate and train individually in private areas at England's training base St George's Park." AFP



Wembley to have 60K fans for Euro semis, final

London: UEFA is in talks with the British Government about increasing the attendance at Wembley Stadium to 65,000 for the semifinals and final of the European Championship, people with knowledge of the discussions said.

The Government had already agreed to increase the current group-stage capacity of about 22,000 to at least 40,000 for one game in the Round of 16 game and the final three matches of the Euro 2020 tournament at the 90,000-seat stadium.

UEFA hopes to increase

that further by securing more quarantine exemptions for visitors, including sponsors and VIPs.

There are fears Britain is seeing the start of a third wave of coronavirus infections with cases rising to 68,449 over the last seven days. The resurgence, which is the result of the delta variant, led Italian Premier Mario Draghi to call for moving the Euro 2020 final away from Britain.

Italy's team has to fly to London this week for a last-16 game against Austria at Wembley on Saturday. AP

UEFA declines Munich application for rainbow-colored stadium

Munich: UEFA's decision to block plans by Munich to light the Allianz Arena in rainbow colours for the Germany-Hungary Euro 2020 match was met on Tuesday with defiance in the Bavarian city which vowed to decorate other landmarks in protest at a law passed by the Hungarian Government.

"UEFA is a politically and religiously neutral organisation," said European football's governing body in a statement ahead of Wednesday's match.

"Given the political context of this request — a message aimed at a decision taken by the Hungarian national parliament



— UEFA must refuse."

Munich's mayor Dieter Reiter slammed UEFA's decision as 'shameful' and announced plans to decorate other city landmarks in rainbow colours in defiance.

"I find it shameful that UEFA forbids us to send a sign for cosmopolitanism, tolerance,

respect and solidarity with the people of the LGBTQ community," he said.

He plans to put up rainbow-coloured flags at the Munich town hall and illuminate a huge wind turbine located close to the stadium, as well as the city's 291m-tall Olympic Tower.

AFP

Younis quits as Pak batting coach

Karachi: Former captain Younis Khan on Tuesday stepped down as Pakistan's batting coach in a surprise decision which the cricket board said was agreed upon 'reluctantly but amicably' even though no reasons were specified for it.

The Pakistan team is due to start a tour of the UK from June 25 to July 20 for three ODIs and three T20Is. The team will

next go to the West Indies from July 21 to August 24 to feature in five T20Is and two Tests.

"Pakistan men's national cricket team will travel to the United Kingdom without a batting coach, while the decision to appoint Younis Khan's replacement for the West Indies tour will be made in due course," a PCB statement said two days before the team's departure. PTI

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

Mohammed Shami's beautiful morning spell put India in the driver's seat as New Zealand's defensive approach failed to yield great results, leaving them struggling at 135 for 5 at lunch on the fifth day of the rain-hit World Test Championship final here on Tuesday.

Shami (18-8-31-2) found the ideal fuller 'English length' right away while Ishant Sharma (20-9-27-2), coming for his second spell, was also penetrative as the two senior pacers bowled a probing line to keep the New Zealand batters on tenterhooks.

Kane Williamson's men could add only 34 runs in 23 overs in the first session after a drizzle caused a delayed start.

The stylish Williamson (19 batting, 112 balls) was forced to show his defensive facet, respecting the bowling as well as conditions with only seven runs added to his third day's

Shami brings India back in match

score of 12 not out. The fourth day was washed out. Ross Taylor (11, 37 balls) was dismissed as Shami reaped the rewards for finding the fuller length which enticed the batsman to go for a drive.

Shubman Gill, at short cover, took a brilliant diving catch. Ishant then had the normally dependable Henry Nicholls (7), who went for a 'fishing expedition' when the lanky speedster pushed his length fuller by a yard and the edge at second slip was taken by Rohit Sharma.

BJ Watling (1), in his last Test, got a ball that would have put the best in the business in trouble.

Shami, who by then had started bossing the batsmen, bowled one that looked like shaping in but held its line after pitching, clipping the off-bail in the process. From 117 for 2,



India's Mohammed Shami, left, celebrates the dismissal of New Zealand's BJ Watling, right, during Day 5 of WTC Final AP

New Zealand were reeling at 135 for 5 in no time.

However, the disappointment during the morning session was Jasprit Bumrah, who bowled short and wide which former England captain Nasser Hussain termed 'pretty balls' that don't yield results.

The moment Virat Kohli replaced Bumrah with Shami, things changed drastically as the senior pacer sowed doubts in the batters' minds.

He didn't look to make the batsmen play and Williamson was seen doing a 'Cheteshwar Pujara', leaving delivery after delivery.

His first four of the morning came in the 20th over of the day (69th for the day), a clip off Bumrah to the mid-wicket boundary.

What Shami and Ishant did was to hit the six-metre length (good length) which did the trick for the Indians.

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: KHORDHA
H & UD Department, Govt. of Odisha Khordha-752055
e-Mail - khurda municipality@yahoo.co.in Phone No-06755-220674

CANCELLED NOTICE No. 2059 Date. 21.06.2021
C-429: Due to unavoidable circumstances the e-Procurement Notice No. 2006 dated 16.06.2021 & Tender Reference No. KMPLTY/ 02/2021-22 is hereby cancelled which was earlier published in The Pioneer, The Smbad Kalika & The Odisha Bhaskar on dated 18/06/2021.

Sd/- Executive Officer
Khordha Municipality

OIPR : 13082/11/0003/2122

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL: KHORDHA
H & UD Department, Govt. of Odisha Khordha-752055
e-Mail khurda municipality@yahoo.co.in Phone No-06755-220674

"e" Procurement Notice
No. 2072 / Date. 22/06/2021/

C-438: Bid Documents consisting of Work, Estimated Cost, Cost of Tender Paper, EMD, time of completion, Class of Contractors and the set of terms and conditions of contract and other necessary documents can be seen in Govt. website i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in

- Tender Reference No. : KMPLTY/ 03/2021-22
- Name of the Work : Civil Construction works as mentioned in website
- No. of works : 19Nos.
- Estimated Cost : As per DTCN
- Period of Completion : As per DTCN
- Date & Time of Bidding : 23/06/2021 at 11.00 AM
- Last date & time for receipt Of bids in the portal : 29/06/2021 at 5.00 PM
- Bids received online shall be opened on : 02/07/2021 at 11.00 AM
- Name and address of the Officer inviting Bid : 02/07/2021 at 11.00 AM

Further details can be seen from the procurement portal i.e. www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Officer
Khordha Municipality

OIPR : 13082/11/0004/2122

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BALASORE
By E-Mail/e-Despatch: E-Mail ID : serv_balasore@yahoo.in. Ph-No-06782/260318

"e" Procurement Notice for Road Work
Identification No.- Online Tender- Road N.C.B. No. 293 for 2021-22.
Letter No. 2020 Date. 17.06.2021

- Name of the work :- Periodical Maintenance of PMGSY Road
- Total No. of work :- 3 Nos. of work.
- Estimated Cost :- From Rs. 101.15 lakhs to Rs. 195.16 lakhs (Approximately)
- Eligible Class of Contractor :- 'B' & 'A' Class (of Odisha P.W.D.) or relevant Class of other licensing authorities (as per annexure).
- Period of Completion :- From 03 Calendar months for the work.
- Other details :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of tender On-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of sealing Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O.D.S.E.R.W. Circle, Balasore	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Balasore	N.C.B. No. 293	01.06.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	04.07.2021 at 5.00 P.M.	01.07.2021 up to 5.00 P.M.	01.07.2021 at 11.00 A.M.	Will be intimated letter.

Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in

Sd/- Superintending Engineer,
R.W. Circle, Balasore.

OIPR-25105/11/0007/2122

Argentina, Chile qualify for quarters

AFP ■ BRASILIA

Argentina and Chile on Monday booked their places in the Copa America quarter-finals, ending top of Group A after low-scoring matches that left the other two spots up for grabs.

Argentina logged their second win in three group matches played, beating Paraguay 1-0, with Alejandro 'Papu' Gomez scoring the sole goal of a lacklustre match in the ninth minute.

The win placed Lionel Messi's La Albiceleste top of Group A with seven points — enough to secure its spot in the next phase of the tournament being played in empty stadiums in coronavirus-battered Brazil. The match marked a personal milestone for Messi, who tied Javier Mascherano's record for the most games played for Argentina — 147.

But it was not a night of glory for Messi or his team, who in the second half seemed to resign themselves to defend-

ing a spirited, but ultimately fruitless, Paraguayan attack.

In the other match Monday, Chile drew 1-1 with Uruguay to end the day with five lost points.

With four matches left to play in Group A, Paraguay has three points, Uruguay one, and Bolivia zero, meaning they all still stand a theoretical chance to go to the quarter-finals.

Brazil has already qualified from Group B.

The build-up to Chile-Uruguay game had been overshadowed by controversy in the Chile camp after revelations the team had breached Covid-19 protocols by bringing a local hairdresser into the team hotel.

CONMEBOL said it would fine those involved \$30,000. However there was no sign of the controversy affecting their play, with Vargas firing Chile ahead on 26 minutes from a tight angle after latching onto a clever pass from English-born Ben Brereton.

Maharaj hat-trick headlines Proteas Test series win

AFP ■ GROS-ISLET

Keshav Maharaj completed just the second hat-trick by a South African in Test history as the Proteas completed a 158-run victory over the West Indies on the fourth day of the second Test of the two-match series at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in St Lucia on Monday night.

In the penultimate over before lunch the left-arm spinner removed Kieran Powell, Jason Holder and Joshua da Silva in successive deliveries to join fast bowler Geoff Griffin, who achieved the feat at Lord's in 1960, in the record books.

Maharaj then followed up with two of the last three to fall in the afternoon to finish with figures of five for 36 as the West Indies were dismissed for 165.

Following a comprehensive innings and 63-run victory



inside three days in the first Test a week earlier at the same venue, the result gave South Africa the series 2-0, their first away series triumph since 2017 in New Zealand.

"This is huge for us because we haven't won on the road for quite some time," said South African captain Dean

Elgar. "There will be teething years as captain but this is a good, important step on the way forward."

"As a batting unit we let ourselves down but I must really commend the effort of the bowlers," said a dejected Windies captain Brathwaite.