

OPINION 6
RESISTANCE TO COUP
BLEEDS MYANMAR

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

AVENUES 10
HYBRID LEARNING
IS WAY FORWARD

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INDIA HOLD
ON FOR A
VITAL POINT
12 SPORT

Caution thrown to winds, experts fear early relapse



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

Covid-19 IN INDIA

TOTAL CASES: 2,96,27,763 (+57,678)

DEATHS: 3,79,551 (+2,489)

RECOVERED: 2,83,75,144 (+1,02,220)

ACTIVE: 8,61,404

MAHA: 59,24,773 (+7,652)

K'TAKA: 27,77,010 (+5,041)

KERALA: 27,48,205 (+12,246)

TN: 23,78,298 (+11,805)

DELHI: 14,31,498 (+228)

ARCHANA JYOTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

They said while it is not easy to predict when the third wave will come, it is important to increase vaccination and ensure that people follow social norms to limit the scope of transmission and mutation of the virus.

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

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

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

However, he warned people should maintain social distancing. "Responsibility and discipline are two important things for unlocking. Virus transmission is very low right now. Cluster cases should be contained. We are dealing with a highly transmissible variant this year than we were in 2020, hence we need to exercise greater caution and strictly abide by Covid appropriate behaviour," he said.

Continued on Page 2

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

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

has been detected and submitted to the global data system. It has been seen in Europe since March and was brought into the public domain two days ago on June 13," NITI Aayog's Member Health, Dr VK Paul, said at a Health Ministry Press meet.

LJP wide open: Chirag, Paras try to pull strings

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

In his first reaction after his uncle Paras ousted him as the leader of the party in the Lok Sabha with the support of four others MPs, Chirag likened the organisation to a mother who should not be "betrayed".

He also shared on Twitter a letter he had written to him on March 29 that highlighted Paras' alleged indifference to the party's agenda and conduct against its interests, and had urged him to fulfil his responsibilities to it and their family following the death of LJP founder Ram Vilas Paswan.

With the Paswan family

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



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

and the party controlled by it now split down the middle only eight months after the death of Chirag Paswan's father, the two warring groups are now rallying the members of its organisation to their cause as both factions claim to represent the Lok Janshakti Party.

While the party MPs have sided with Paras, the group headed by Chirag Paswan called a virtual meeting of the party's national executive in

which 41 of 76 members were present, its Bihar unit working president Raju Tiwari said. It was unanimously decided to expel the five MPs from the LJP for their "anti-party" activities, he told reporters.

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

Continued on Page 2

CAPSULE

US COVID-19 DEATHS HIT 6,00,000
Washington: The US death toll from Covid-19 topped 6,00,000 on Tuesday, even as the vaccination drive has drastically brought down daily cases and fatalities and allowed the country to emerge from the gloom and look forward to summer.

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

CRIMINAL CASE CLOSED AGAINST ITALIAN MARINES

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Tuesday directed the closure of criminal proceedings in India against two Italian marines, accused of killing two fishermen off the Kerala coast in February 2012, and asked the Kerala High Court to oversee the apportionment of ₹10 crore compensation to the heirs of the victim.



MARKETS

SENSEX 52,773.05 (+221.52)

NIFTY 15,809.25 (+57.40)

GOLD 48,674.00 (+151.00)

SILVER 71,423.00 (-456.00)

WEATHER

MAX 33.0°C

MIN 23.0°C

Partly Cloudy Sky

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<https://pioneeredge.in>

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Prior booking and pre-online registration are now no longer mandatory for Covid vaccination. "Walk-ins are allowed.

This means, anyone aged 18 years or more can directly go to the nearest vaccination centre, where the vaccinator performs the on-site registration and provides vaccination in the same visit, for Covid vaccine," Union Health Ministry said on Tuesday.

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

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



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

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

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

Court grants bail to 3 activists arrested in Delhi riot case

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



File photo

Making scathing remarks against the authorities for misuse of the UAPA against students, the court underscored that the right to protest peacefully without arms is a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(b) of the Constitution and has not been outlawed yet. The court's observations came while it granted bails to feminist

organisation Pinjara Tod activists Devangana Kalita, Natasha Narwal and Asif Iqbal Tanha in separate orders.

The court's remarks will come as a vindication for those who have been raising questions on the vicious crackdown against student activists for raising a finger at police for misusing the provisions of the UAPA to implicate

innocent persons in the Delhi riot cases.

The court observed that

making inflammatory speeches, organising chakka-jams, etc, were common in the face

of widespread opposition to Governmental or parliamentary actions.

Senior citizen benefits for green lungs

75-yr-old trees to get ₹2,500 pension/annually in Haryana

NISHU MAHAJAN ■ CHANDIGARH

In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the country, the Manohar Lal Khattar Government in Haryana will dole out pension to trees older than 75 years, recognising them as living entities and not just an economic commodity.

Old-age is inevitable and Government-backed pension schemes for senior citizens are a common practice in various countries and Indian States to ensure financial stability and security to people post-retirement. The Haryana Government, however, went a step ahead to identify, protect

and provide financial aid to the old trees on its land.

Under its pension scheme named "Pran Vayu Devtaa Pension Scheme", any tree that has attained an age of 75 years or more will be given ₹2,500 per year as a token of honour for the service it has rendered to humanity and the environment. The State Government will also give "heritage" status to the trees that are over 75 years old.

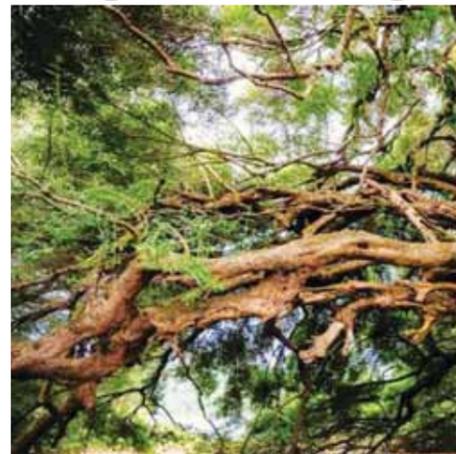
Not only this, the pension amount under the scheme will be increased in the ratio as provisioned in the old age pension scheme in the state. Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had announced the

tree pension scheme on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5. The scheme acknowledges how the decades-old trees function as critical habitat for a wide array of species in ecosystem.

According to the State's Forest Department, there are at least 2,500 trees in Haryana that have attained an age of 75 years or more.

To put in place a legal mechanism to identify, inventory, protect and conserve such old trees, the Forest Department has also prepared draft Haryana (Declaration, Protection and Preservation) Heritage Tree Rules 2021.

Continued on Page 2



Max Hospital, Dehradun offers COVID-19 Vaccination for all 18 years & older.

Registration and booking on CoWIN portal - www.cowin.gov.in is mandatory before coming for vaccination. Onsite registration or walk-in facility not available.

MAX VACCINATION CENTRE PINCODE - 248009

To get to the location on Google Maps search **DEHRADUN CLUB, NEW SURVEY ROAD, OPPOSITE PARADE GROUND**

Get vaccinated in a safe & secure environment by expert clinicians outside of hospital premises

THE VACCINATION PROCESS IS SIMPLE

- 1 Logon to CoWIN portal
- 2 Select 248009 pin code and choose Max Hospital, Dehradun
- 3 Schedule your vaccination appointment slot
- 4 Visit Dehradun Club at the appointed slot
- 5 Share your valid Govt. photo ID

TIPS BEFORE COMING TO VACCINATION SITE

- Double mask if possible, practice social distancing and sanitise hands frequently
- Do not come empty stomach, have your food at least 2 hrs before coming for vaccination
- If you have COVID symptoms or doubt exposure, test and defer the date of vaccination
- If you've recently recovered or are recovering from COVID, please reach out to your doctor for advice on vaccination

www.maxhealthcare.in

Max Super Speciality Hospital, Dehradun
Main, Mussorie Diversion, Near Indian Oil Petrol Pump
Uttarakhand - 248001, Phone: 0135 3500800

MAX Healthcare

Thousands participate in SPECS online poster & cartoon competition

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A total of 7,624 youngsters took part in the online poster and cartoon competition, organised by Society of Pollution and Environmental Conservation Scientists (SPECS) in association with Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology (UCOST) and Pandit Lalit Mohan Sharma Government Post Graduate College, Rishikesh, Shri Devi Suman Uttarakhand University and the Public Relations Society of India, which was part of World Environment Day celebrations and was based on the theme of nature conservation.

The participants were divided into four groups - from class I to V, VI to VIII, IX to XII and from graduation till post graduation level.

Participants were from as many as 71 blocks spread across 13 districts of the state, which included those from far flung areas. In the group A, Ashika Vaishnav, Praseed Agarwal and Shanidya Ratudi stood first, second and third respectively. In the second group, Aarushi, Vishakha and Anjali bagged first, second and third prizes respectively. In the third group, Nistha, Driшти Pant and Shivani got first, second and third prizes respectively. In the



fourth group, Aashna, Neha Arya, Anika Prajapati got first, second and third prizes respectively. The entire competition was carried out under guidance of UCOST director general Rajendra Dobhal. Announcing the results, SPECS secretary Brij Mohan Sharma expressed hap-

piness over the active participation of the youngsters in the competition.

He said the aim of the competition was to encourage children to take up constructive works particularly during times of lockdown in the backdrop of Covid pandemic.

Senior citizen benefits for green lungs

From Page 1

The draft rules assert that not only are trees essential for life by producing oxygen but as the longest living species on earth, they give us a link between past and present. At a large number of places in the State, the decades and centuries old trees are considered prominent landmarks and also memorial to historical figures or national events.

Once a tree is notified as "heritage" in the State, any person or organisation that cut, fell or cause any damage to the heritage tree will be liable for punishment with a fine which may extend to Rs 500 or with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one month or both, as per the provisions of draft Heritage Tree Rules.

VS Tanwar, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Haryana told The Pioneer, "Pran Vayu Devtaa Pension Scheme", a brainchild of Forest Minister Kanwar Pal Gujjar aims at protecting old trees for their natural and cultural significance. Despite their significant role in the ecosystem, the decades-old trees are often overlooked in habitat conservation programmes."

Elaborating about the tree pension scheme, Tanwar said the pension amount of Rs 2,500 per year will be given to the owner of the heritage tree that is above 75 years old. This scheme would be applicable to all such trees on private and Government land up till the life period of that heritage tree. For instance, if such a tree is identified in panchayat land, then the sarpanch of the panchayat will be given the pension amount for the care and maintenance of the tree.

Similarly, for such trees in

schools, the concerned principal will be given the said pension amount. For such trees in residential areas, the owner will get the said amount while on forest land, the concerned divisional forest officers will be given the pension amount for maintenance of old trees, he said.

On how the pension amount is proposed to be spent, the PPCF said the concerned authority or owner can use the said amount for beautification of the tree, installing information plates or grills, making sitting arrangements under the tree, treating the tree for fungal infection among other purposes.

As per the estimates, there are at least 2,500 such trees, which are 75 years old or more in Haryana. After the State Government gives final approval to the scheme, the Forest Department plans to carry out a fresh survey to identify such old trees and notify them as 'heritage' trees across the state, he added.

About the draft state's Heritage Tree Rules 2021, the PPCF said the draft rules have provisions, including criteria for declaring a tree as heritage tree, restrictions of felling of heritage trees, incentives for heritage trees and penalty for damaging such trees.

According to the proposed rules, a tree shall be declared as heritage tree if it is more than 75 years old which can be gauged from its profile and girth of trunk or as assessed by the old age villagers; a tree species which is reported for the first time in the state or is endemic or rare in nature; tree that has historical, mythological, religious, cultural significance; or a curious cluster of trees like a set of banyan tree

among other criteria.

For the protection and conservation of heritage trees, the rules also proposed that no concretization of base shall be permitted around the Banyan Tree and Peepal Tree below its crown and up to a diameter of ten meter in other tree species in the State.

Apart from launching the pension scheme for trees, the State Government has also planned to establish Oxy Vans or Oxy Parks, a concept envisioned keeping in view the severe crisis of medical oxygen during the second wave of Covid-19 in Haryana.

Talking about the initiative, the PPCF VS Tanwar said recognising the dire need to protect the trees and ecosystems, this initiative has been taken up to give back to nature. Oxy Van will be developed covering five to 100 acres of area in each cities and villages of the state.

The Chief Minister has announced to establish two Oxy Vans including one on 80 acres of land situated at old Badshahi Canal (also known as Mughal canal) covering a total length of 4.2 Kms in Karnal and another on 100 acres of land situated on bank of Ghaggar river in Panchkula district. The Oxy Van will have components namely Chit Van (forest of beauty), Paakhi Van (forest of birds), Antriksh Van (forest of zodiac plants), Tapo Van (forest of meditation), Arogya Van (healing/herbal forest), Rishi Van (Sapt Rishi), Panchvati (five trees), Sugandh Van (forest of fragrance) among others.

The State Government has proposed to utilise 80000 acre of panchayat land for development of Oxy Van in Haryana.

Punjab eases curbs as Covid positivity falls to 2%

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

In the wake of fall in state's positivity rate to two percent and squeezing number of active cases, Punjab Government on Tuesday eased COVID-19 restrictions announcing opening of restaurants, cinemas, gyms at 50 percent capacity; increasing limit on gatherings to 50 persons; while deciding to continue with the daily night curfew and weekend curfew across the State.

Under the new guidelines, which will remain in effect from June 16 till June 25 when they will be again reviewed, the daily night curfew will be in place from 8 pm to 5 am, with weekend curfew from 8 pm on Saturday up to 5 am on Monday. However, all essential activities, including those covered under existing exemptions, will remain unaffected, unhindered, and exempted from the curfew restrictions.

Chairing a high-level virtual COVID review meeting, the Chief Minister ordered opening of all restaurants (including in hotels), cafes, coffee shops, fast food outlets,

dhabas, etc, cinemas, gyms at maximum 50 percent of capacity, "subject to all their employees having received at least one dose of vaccination".

However, bars, pubs and 'ahatas' shall continue to remain closed.

Besides, the closure of all educational institutions, that is schools and colleges, will also continue as per the new guidelines, which also allows plying of the AC buses with 50 percent occupation.

District authorities have been asked to determine opening timings of non-essential shops, including on Sunday, on the basis of the local situation, while ensuring that crowds are avoided. District Authorities will also continue to ensure strict implementation of all existing directives of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs and the State Government on COVID appropriate behaviour, including social or physical distancing, wearing of face masks etc.

PUNJAB'S DAILY GROWTH RATE - 9.2% AS OF JUNE 14: REPORT

The announcements came as the state's Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan, citing a University of Cambridge Judge Business School report of June 14 on Growth of Infection in Punjab, told the meeting that based on its findings, all districts are on downward trajectories for new cases.

"The estimated trend value of the daily growth rate was -9.2 percent as of June 14, 2021. This implies that reported new cases will halve in seven days, under the assumption that the growth rate remains constant. As of June 14, 2021, the estimated reproduction number Rt for Punjab stood at 0.69, significantly below one. Newly reported COVID-19 cases are likely to decline to about 210 per day by June 28, 2021," she added.

Mahajan said: "Further, while numbers of cases are low, there are indications that the growth rates of cases, while negative, have recently reversed direction from their downward paths in Fazilka, Jalandhar, and Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar. The projected number of deaths by June 28 stands at 21." The state had hit its second

wave peak on May 8, with 9,100 cases, which had come down to a low of 629 on June 14. Giving details of curfew exemptions, an official spokesperson later said that all the exemptions from COVID restrictions are subject to observing COVID appropriate behaviour by all concerned.

EXPERT PANEL TO STUDY VACCINES' EFFECTIVENESS IN CONTEXT OF NEW COVID VARIANTS

Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh directed the Expert Group, headed by Dr Gagandeep Kang, to start studying the effectiveness of vaccines in the context of the new variants of the coronavirus. The month-wise whole genome sequencing has shown that while in the month of March, 95 percent of the problem was due to the UK variant, in April 2021, the Delta variant starting increasing and by May, it had become dominant, reaching nearly 90 percent, he said.

It was also a matter of concern that the Brazil Variant (B1) had increased from one percent in April and now stood

at eight percent, pointed the Chief Minister at the COVID review meet. He underlined the need to get more samples analyzed to have a clear picture and formulate a proper strategy.

The state's advisor Dr KK Talwar said that an expert group was being constituted to analyze the audit of patients who had been on ventilator during the second wave to provide learnings for the future.

Chief Secretary Vini Mahajan disclosed that Dr Talwar was trying to arrange for genome sampling in Patalia's Rajindra Hospital.

TRACK ALL BLACK FUNGUS CASES: CM

The Chief Minister also ordered tracking of all Black Fungus (Mucormycosis) cases, which currently stand at 441 cases in the state. Of these, 51 have already been cured and 308 are undergoing treatment, the meeting was informed. Of the 441 total cases, 388 were from Punjab and the remaining from other states, the state's Health Secretary Hussan Lal told the meeting.

11 suspended BSP MLAs to form party

VIRENDRA NATH BHATT ■ LUCKNOW

With Assembly polls in Uttar Pradesh around the corner, as part of a new political manoeuvring, 11 suspended MLAs from Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) met to float a new political outfit before the elections.

The new party will be formed under the leadership of Lalji Verma, who was recently expelled from the party.

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

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

He said another expelled BSP leader Ram Achal Rajbhar is also with them.

"We will make Lalji the head of our party. All the 11 MLAs are united now. Right now we are short of one MLA, due to which a new party is not being formed immediately and

if one more MLA comes, then we will form the party immediately," Raini added.

He said the name of the new party would be decided by Lalji. Raini said, "We have no complaint with Bahujan Samaj Party president Mayawati, but we have serious issues with the behaviour of party's national general secretary Satish Chandra Mishra."

In his meeting with SP president Akhilesh, Raini said they discussed the political situation of the State. "We were not there to discuss weather," he said.

Earlier in the morning on Tuesday six MLAs reached the SP office and later three more MLAs arrived. After the meeting, all of them left the office together from the back gate of the Samajwadi Party office.

When contacted, Akhilesh said these rebel BSP MLAs will strengthen SP's campaign to oust BJP in 2022. He threw enough hints to suggest that if rebel BSP leaders form a separate party then also they will support SP.

The rebel BSP MLA who met Akhilesh included Aslam, Aslam Ali, Mujtaba Siddiqui, Hakim Lal, Sushma Patel and Hargovind Bhargava.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls SP-BSP had an alliance. The SP won five Lok Sabha seats and BSP 10. The alliance was called off soon after the Lok Sabha elections in May 2019.

Caution thrown to winds, experts fear early relapse

From Page 1

India had come into the grip of a second wave in April soon after the lockdowns were eased and people had moved out as the metros, shopping malls, offices and parks were gradually opened up.

It was in May and June that the cases had surged rapidly and health infrastructure was overwhelmed, health experts recalled. So far, just 3 per cent of the population in the country has received two doses of the vaccines. What's worse, even over 50 per cent of the health-care workers have not got the second dose of the jab.

Just at a time when the cases have started receding across the country, videos of huge crowds of shoppers have started doing the rounds on social media with many people seen wearing masks beneath their noses, posing a major risk of spreading coronavirus infection. "We saw a foothold of 19,000 people in the first weekend after the mall reopened," said Arjun Sharma - Chairman of the Select CityWalk shopping mall in Delhi. Eminent virologist Shaheed Jameel said it is not possible to predict the timing or magnitude of a third wave. It would majorly depend upon vaccine coverage, behaviour of the public following unlock and emergence of more infectious virus variants.

LJP wide open: Chirag, Paras try to pull strings

From Page 1

The group led by his paternal uncle claimed that a decision to remove Chirag Paswan, MP from Jamui, as party president was taken in an emergency meeting of the national executive in line with the principal of "one man, one post".

It was not shared as to how many members attended the meeting.

A meeting of the party's national council will be called in five days to elect a new president, the group said.

Chirag Paswan is expected to address a press conference on Wednesday, with the battle for the control of the party likely to reach the Election Commission soon.

The Lok Sabha secretary-at has recognised Paras' election as the leader of the party in the House.

In a tweet, Chirag Paswan said he made efforts to keep the party founded by his father and his family together but failed.

People are supreme in a democracy, he said and thanked those who have kept faith in the party.

The letter he had written to Paras, the youngest brother

of his father, highlighted his uncle's unhappiness over a number of issues, including his elevation as the party president.

Chirag Paswan believes that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U) has worked to engineer the split as it wants to finish him off politically following his strident campaign against the State's ruling party in the 2020 Assembly elections, sources close to him said.

By painting his uncle as "power hungry" whose conduct "hurt" his father when he was ailing, the young leader seeks to galvanise the LJP's core support of the Paswan community around him.

In his letter, he also said that Prince Raj, a party MP and his cousin who has sided with Paras, was allegedly blackmailed by a woman over the allegations of "sexual exploitation". While Paras ignored it, he asked Raj to go the police. There was no reaction from his cousin. The BJP, the principal member of the NDA of which both the JD(U) and LJP are constituents, has officially maintained silence over the implosion within the party.

Traffic violators can now pay fines on spot in Haryana

PNS ■ CHANDIGARH

The traffic violators in Haryana will now be allowed to pay challans on the spot with the Haryana Cabinet on Tuesday approving a proposal in this regard.

The cabinet which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar also approved an amendment in Haryana Motor Vehicles Rules putting in place a system of registration of new fully built-up transport vehicles through the dealers in the state.

Giving details after the cabinet meeting, Education Minister Kanwar Pal Gujjar while talking to the mediapersons said that the framing of the new Haryana Motor Vehicles (Amendments) Rules 2021 has been done as now, the Central Government has amended the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 (Principal Act) vide the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 2019 as notified on August 9, 2019.

In Haryana, the traffic violators will now be able to pay challanning amount to the officers empowered to compound the traffic offences on the spot. The process of compounding shall be further simplified by introducing online compounding of challans whereby the compounding fee if not paid on the spot shall also be payable on the portal online, he said.



This shall increase transparency and make the enforcement or payment of compounding fee seamless in a faceless and cashless manner in line with the ease-of-doing-business vision of the State Government, the Minister said.

Gujjar further said that after amendment in Haryana Motor Vehicles Rules, the registration of fully built-up new transport vehicles will now be possible online by the dealers as is being done at present in the case of new non-transport vehicles. More than 48.80 lakh new personal vehicles have been registered through dealer point registration in the last seven years. Encouraged by its success, the system is now being extended to fully built up transport vehicles with a view to improve ease of doing business in a faceless and cashless manner, he said.

Under the new system, the applicant will apply online along with the required taxes and fees. There will be no offline activity and the regis-

tration certificate will be sent to the applicant by the Registering Authority concerned through the post. No direct interface of the buyer shall be needed with the registration authorities.

In another decision, the cabinet approved an amendment of the Haryana Public Service Commission (Conditions of Service) Regulations, 2018. As per the amendment the number of members of the Haryana Public Service Commission has been reduced from the existing 8 to 5, in addition to the chairman.

FINANCIAL AID UNDER PENSION SCHEME INCREASED

The cabinet approved an increase in the rate of pension, allowance and financial assistance under various social security schemes with effect from April 1, 2021. The financial assistance given under the Old Age Samman Allowance Scheme, Haryana Pension to Widows and Destitute Women

Scheme, Haryana Handicapped Persons Pension Scheme, Ladli Social Security Allowance Scheme, Haryana Allowance to Dwarfs Scheme and Haryana Allowance to Eunuchs Scheme has been increased from Rs. 2250 to Rs. 2500 per month. The financial assistance given to the Destitute Children Scheme has also been increased from Rs.1350 to Rs. 1600 per month and the financial assistance given to non-school going disabled children has been increased from Rs. 1650 to Rs. 1950 per month scheme.

Govt to begin GST reimbursement on COVID related items

Haryana Government has decided to start reimbursement of GST (including State, Centre and IGST) on COVID related items. This GST reimbursement scheme shall remain in force up to and inclusive of June 30. The Excise and Taxation Department being a nodal Department for implementation of the GST, will administer the

scheme. The reimbursement of GST shall be subject to the following conditions that such COVID related material shall be donated free of cost to the Government of Haryana, hospitals run by State Government, or any hospital or institution permitted by State Government to receive such material through Health and Family Welfare, Department, Haryana.

Relief measures for the real estate industry due to disruptions caused by COVID-19

The cabinet granted relief to the real estate industry as well as Change of Land-use Permission (CLU) holders or entrepreneurs due to disruptions caused by second wave of Covid-19 for two months. The period of April 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021 will be considered as "zero period" for the purposes of interest on payment of renewal fee of licence on delayed period, submission of fresh bank guarantee on account of grant of license and interest or penal interest on payment of installment of External Development Works (EDC), State Infrastructure Development Charges (SIDC) during this period, Letter of Intent, permissions, building plan approval or extension of CLU permission and licences and renewal of licenses and related compliances.

Min OK's 2 key railway projects in U'khand



CM discusses range of issues with Union Ministers

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Responding to a request of chief minister Tirath Singh Rawat, the Union Railway minister Piyush Goyal granted approval in principle to the Delhi-Ramnagar Corbett eco train, adding that the train will be started soon. Goyal also approved the request for railway line survey from Doiwala to Gangotri-Yamunotri and Tanakpur-Bageshwar. The approvals were granted when Rawat met Goyal in the national Capital on Tuesday to discuss various issues pertaining to the state.

The union minister directed railway officials to expedite work on the Roorkee-Devband rail. He said that the doubling of the Haridwar-Dehradun railway line will be executed in two phases. The first phase of doubling Haridwar-Raiwala stretch will be completed soon. The minister also directed officials to immediately start work on the Raiwala railway diversion. Stating that a helipad has to be built at Haridwar for pilgrims and tourists, Rawat requested that 0.5 hectare BHEL land identified for this purpose be transferred free to the state government for 20 years.

While meeting the Union minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Information and Broadcasting,

Prakash Javadekar, Rawat thanked him for NBWL approval to Laldhang-Chillarkhal road improvement work and transfer of Rangers college ground to the state government. He also sought relaxation in forest land transfer for the Laldhang-Chillarkhal road project. Rawat further requested necessary action for approval to enable PMGSY road works. When asked to facilitate free BHEL land to the state for 20 years for constructing a helipad in Haridwar, the minister agreed to provide three to four acres of land.

The CM also met the Union Agriculture minister Narendra Singh Tomar. Rawat said that the state is making serious efforts to turn Uttarakhand into an organic state. The duo discussed various issues related to the state. Tomar assured Rawat of all possible assistance from the ministries under his charge.

Rawat also met the Union minister of State for Civil Aviation, Housing and Urban Development, Hardeep Singh Puri. Rawat thanked Puri for the Rs 32.14 crore approved and released for solid waste management projects in three Ganga towns- Rishikesh, Roorkee and Kotdwari under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).

The two discussed aspects in detail for expansion of air services in the state. Rawat said that the length of runway at Pithoragarh airport needs to be increased to make the facility more suitable for air services.

This airstrip should also be transferred to the Airports Authority of India. Rawat also requested that tenders be invited again for operation of fixed wing aircraft from Pithoragarh airstrip under the regional connectivity scheme and making the routes approved under the scheme point to point.

In the meeting with the Union minister of State for Tourism and Culture, Prahlad Singh Patel, the union minister agreed to Rawat's request for developing IDPL Rishikesh as a special tourism zone. The project will entail using 600 acre area at IDPL for a biodiversity park, international convention centre, resort, hotel and wellness centre. Patel appreciated the concept of this project, adding that in the future too the centre will fund this project.

Rawat also discussed various issues with the Union minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries Giriraj Singh. Rawat informed that under the National Gokul Mission the state has a Rs 340 lakh scheme for conservation of Gir cows at Kalsi farm in Dehradun.

Rawat requested Singh to approve the scheme and release the budget for it. The duo discussed various other aspects related to animal husbandry in the state. Chief secretary Om Prakash, secretaries Shailesh Bagauli, Radhika Jha and other officials were also present in the meetings. Rawat also met Union Education minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank' who is undergoing treatment at AIIMS.

Covid recovery percentage climbs to 95.14 in U'khand

274 new cases, 18 deaths & 515 recoveries reported on Tuesday

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The recovery percentage from the novel Coronavirus (Covid-19) in Uttarakhand mounted to 95.14 percent on Tuesday with the state health department reporting 274 new cases of the disease and 515 recoveries from it. The department also reported the death of 18 patients from the disease on the day.

The cumulative count of patients in the state has now increased to 3,37,499 while the death toll from the disease has climbed to 6985. A total of 3,21,064 patients have so far recovered from the disease in Uttarakhand. The sample positivity rate is now at 6.53 percent in the state. The health department took samples of 24,309 patients on the day for Covid-19 testing.

Out of the 18 deaths reported on the day, three patients each died at Mahant Indresh hospital and Military hospital Dehradun. Death of two patients each was reported from District Hospital Gopeshwar, Chamoli and Base

hospital Kotdwar, Pauri. The authorities also reported the death of nine patients on Tuesday which had occurred in the past but were not reported earlier. Five of these backlog deaths were reported from Haridwar district.

The provisional state capital Dehradun reported 56, Haridwar 48, Nainital and Uttarkashi 26 each, Almora 24, Pithoragarh 18, Udham Singh Nagar 17, Tehri 16, Bageshwar 12, Champawat 10, Chamoli and Rudraprayag seven each and Pauri six new cases of the disease on Tuesday.

The state now has 3,642 active patients of the disease. Pithoragarh district is at top of the table in the list of active cases now with 572 cases while Haridwar is in second position with 487 active cases. Pauri has 394, Almora 300, Champawat 279, Tehri 254, Nainital 226, Dehradun 223, Chamoli 201, Rudraprayag 161 Uttarkashi 153 and Udham Singh Nagar 119 active cases of the disease.

The state reported seven new cases of Mucormycosis (Black fungus) on Tuesday after which it now has 407 patients of the disease. Death of two patients from Black Fungus was also reported on the day.

A total of 69 patients have so far died from this disease

Covid-19 test irregularities in Kumbh: Cong demands action against guilty

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Uttarakhand Congress has demanded that strict action should be taken against those involved in the Covid-19 testing during Kumbh in Haridwar. The spokesperson of Uttarakhand Congress, Garima Dasauni has said that the Uttarakhand High Court (HC) had ordered that the administration should conduct at least 50,000 tests in a day during Kumbh but it was never fulfilled. She said that now it has come to the fore that a large number of fake tests were conducted during the Kumbh by private agencies roped in by the administration which shows that corruption was deep rooted in the organisation of the event. The Congress leader accused the state government of complacency and putting the lives of people at stake during Kumbh.

Reacting to the allegation

while 45 have recovered. In the ongoing vaccination drive against the contagion of Covid 19 a total of 45,572 peo-

ple were vaccinated in 427 sessions in different parts of the state on Tuesday. A total of 7,13,270 people have been

THE ISSUE

On the complaints of irregularities in the Covid 19 tests during Kumbh the Haridwar district administration had ordered a probe into the issue. A committee headed by the Chief Development Officer (CDO) of Haridwar, Saurabh Gaharwar is said to have found many irregularities in the tests conducted by private agencies. The probe revealed that on one ID and phone number registration of as many as 50 people were done. Many individuals who were shown as sample collectors were found to be the residents of Rajasthan and they had not even visited

Haridwar during Kumbh.

It is worth mentioning here that Kumbh was organised in Haridwar from April 1 to 30 this year. As per the government data a total of 6,00,291 tests were conducted in Haridwar during this period and out of them 17,375 were found positive for Covid 19. During this period 4,42,432 tests were conducted in other 12 districts of Uttarakhand and out of them 62,735 were found positive.

The data clearly shows a major difference between the positivity rate of Haridwar (2.98 percent) with the rest of the state (14.18 percent) during Kumbh. Health expert Anoop Nautiyal said that the ongoing investigation should not be limited to private labs but it should cover all government labs and agencies engaged by the government. He even demanded a judicial investigation in the matter.

fully vaccinated while 26,98,902 have received the first dose of the vaccine in the state so far.

Double murder: Brothers shot dead in land dispute, accused absconding

PNS ■ RUDRAPUR

A double murder shook the rural area of Rudrapur in Udham Singh Nagar district when two brothers were shot dead in broad daylight due to a land dispute here on Tuesday. Reaching the site on receiving the information, the police checked the house of the accused but could not find him. The forensics team also reached the site to collect evidence.

According to sources, Lanka Malsi village resident Ajit Singh has seven acre land in Preetnagar. He had a dispute regarding the boundary with his neighbour Rakesh Mishra. According to the villagers, on Tuesday afternoon, Singh's two sons Gurkirtan and Gurpej were working on the said farm when Mishra reached the site with a rifle and his nephews Shubham and Shivam.

He fired five rounds on the Singh brothers. A bullet tore through Gurkirtan's jaw killing him on the spot. Family members saw the injured Gurpej breathing and took him to a private hospital where doctors declared him dead.

On learning about the double murder, the superintendent of police (Crime) Mithilesh Kumar and super-

intendent of police (City) Mamta Vohra reached the site along with other police personnel. The senior superintendent of police Dilip Singh Kunwar also reached the site later and issued necessary instructions to officials. The villagers were initially insisting that they will not allow the bodies to be taken until the accused killers are arrested. The police were able to convince the villagers after which the two bodies were sent for post mortem examination.

The SSP said that Rakesh Mishra along with his two nephews had allegedly murdered the two brothers due to a land dispute. Five teams of the police and special operation group are searching for the accused who will be arrested soon, he added.

About 900 children marked for MVY in Uttarakhand

Champawat, Uttarkashi and Pauri are among districts with least potential beneficiaries

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

About 900 children have been marked across Uttarakhand so far who have lost one or both parents or the sole earning member of their family to the Covid-19 disease. Currently, the Women Welfare Directorate is receiving data from all the districts about such children eligible to be the beneficiaries of Mukhyamantri Vatsalya Yojana (MVY).

According to the director of the Women Welfare Directorate, Yogendra Yadav, he has received the data of about 900 children from across the State so far who have been claimed as eligible for MVY.

Yadav said that as per the data provided by the districts, the number of children who lost one of their parents due to Covid-19 is more than those who lost both parents. As per Yadav, there are about 840 children in the State who lost a single parent to Covid while there are 55 children who lost both parents to this disease.

Moreover, he also informed that Dehradun and Haridwar are the districts that

have the maximum number of potential beneficiaries of the scheme in the State while Champawat, Pauri and Uttarkashi are the districts with the least potential beneficiaries till now under this scheme. "About 203 children in Dehradun district and 157 children in Haridwar district have been marked as potential beneficiaries of MVY which are among the highest numbers so far. On the other hand, Champawat, Uttarkashi and Pauri are among the districts with the least potential beneficiaries with 17, 21 and 23 children respectively under the scheme so far," informed Yadav. The director also said that the details of those children who have been marked across the State to be the beneficiaries of this scheme would be verified soon in order to check whether they are actually eligible to receive the benefits of the scheme.

It is pertinent to mention here that the State Government recently announced that under Mukhyamantri Vatsalya Yojana, children who have lost one or both parents, or the sole earning member of their family to the Covid would be provided with free education, ration and health facilities besides providing monthly monetary support of Rs 3000 till the age of 21 years.

Trivendra questions postponement of nurses' exam

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat has questioned the state administration's decision of postponing the nursing services recruitment examination again. The examination to recruit 2600 nurses in the state health department was suspended for a third time on Monday. Talking to The Pioneer on Tuesday Rawat said that he fails to understand as to why the government is helpless in organising the important examination. He opined that the recruitment process of nurses should be expedited during the pandemic so that their services are utilised.

The former CM again defended his government's decision of constituting the Char Dham Devasthanam board. He said that the objective behind the act is to streamline the Char Dham Yatra. He said that the numbers of pilgrims in the Yatra are expected to increase tremendously after completion of the All weather road project and rail connectivity in the area. Rawat said that the act was passed after due consultation and does not affect the interests of Teerth Purohitis and stakeholders. He said that petty politics is now taking place on the issue.

On the Char Dham Yatra, the former CM said that he is in favour of opening the Yatra in a phased and controlled manner. He said that the opinion of experts should be taken on his suggestion of allowing those who had taken both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine. The experts should be asked to give their opinion on whether a person with both doses of vaccine can act as a carrier of the virus or not, he said.

Teacher opens free library in village for children

PNS ■ NEW TEHRI

A teacher from the government inter-college at Jajal in Tehri district has made a library in Bergani village to attract children who are addicted to mobile phones and computer games. Apart from the books on various subjects, the library also has study material for competitive examinations.

Laxman Singh Rawat is an English teacher at GIC Jajal in Narendranagar block and has set up a library in Bergani using his own resources so that the youngsters are attracted to the knowledge in books instead of spending their time on mobile games. The teacher's effort has been appreciated by the entire village. Rawat says that books are true friends of human beings, but today's youngsters are drifting away from the knowledge in books. He said that the internet cannot replace books.

City magistrate seeks action on dilapidated buildings from MCD



PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Dehradun district administration has sent a letter to the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun (MCD) seeking the status of the dilapidated buildings in the city. Recently, Uttarakhand minister for disaster management, Dhan Singh Rawat directed the administration to conduct a survey of all the dilapidated buildings in Dehradun and shift the people living in them to a safer place considering the damage such buildings might cause during the approaching monsoon season.

Talking about the progress on this matter, the Dehradun city magistrate, Kusum Chauhan said that as per the data provided by the municipal corporation last year, there are a total of 43 dilapidated build-

ings across the city. She said that the city magistrate's office had issued directions to the MCD last year to vacate all such buildings and demolish them to avoid any risk of damage to life and property in any area.

However, Chauhan added that the administration received no report on what action was taken by the corporation in this matter on receiving the order. She stated, "We have sent a letter to the additional municipal commissioner asking what action has been taken by the MCD since the last direction of administration regarding the dilapidated buildings. We have mentioned in the letter that if the corporation has not taken any action on the matter so far then the corporation must vacate all the said buildings and demolish them in the specified time

as per the direction." Besides this, the city magistrate informed that she has also sent letters to the officials concerned like Tehsildars and Patwaris of the city to conduct a survey in their respective areas and provide data of such dilapidated buildings which might not be registered in the available data but can cause damage in future.

It is pertinent to mention here that last year, the municipal commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey had stated that the court cases of 32 buildings were pending due to owner-tenant disputes. He said that at that time that the corporation would not proceed with any plan to demolish the condemned buildings till the matter of the disputed buildings remain in the court and as per the officials, most of the cases are still pending in court.



CM Tirath Singh Rawat during a courtesy visit to Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu in the national Capital on Tuesday. Rawat presented him a model of Kedarnath temple and a shawl made from Kandali (stinging nettle) fibres..... Pioneer photo

INDIA'S RAIL, ROAD AND WATER PUSH

₹450 cr seaplane services to boost tourism industry



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

cost of ₹450 crore, Puri pointed out.

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

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

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

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

Army tests efficacy of dedicated freight corridor, runs special train

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Army pays homage to Galwan martyrs on 1st anniversary



PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sonia: Disengagement process with Beijing worked against India

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

IndiGo plane tyre bursts while landing, crew, passengers safe

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

Govt accepts first death due to adverse impact of vaccination

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

pensation or not.

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

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

LOST & FOUND

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

-Bhela Devi

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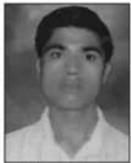
NOTICE

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

A copy of the said Notice and the Financial Results shall also be available at the Company's website at www.prakashwoollen.com and on Stock Exchange Website at www.bseindia.com
For Prakash Woollen & Synthetic Mills Limited
Sd/-
Place : Village Amhera (Amroha)
VIJAY KUMAR GUPTA
WHOLETIME DIRECTOR & CFO
Date : 15.06.2021 DIN: 00335325

SEARCH OF MISSING

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



Suraj Bhan

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

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

S.H.O

P.S. Kalyanpuri, Delhi

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

Vaccine-deficient India now pins hopes on Novavax

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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



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

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

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

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NOTICE

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

For Technofab Engineering Limited
Date: 15/06/2021 Suman Kumar Verma
Place: New Delhi Company Secretary

WESTERN RAILWAY

Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Western Railway, Mumbai Division, Mumbai Central invites open e-tender, for leasing of SLR/LWLRM on single trip basis on payment of lumpsum rates for loading/unloading of parcels in specific trains for a period of 5 years. Leasing Contract of 3,9/04 tonnes space in SLRs Compartments of the trains mentioned below. (Period Of Contract = 5 years). Tender Document Cost and Earnest Money Deposit shall be accepted only through Online Net Banking or E-payment Gateway.

Sr. No.	Tender Notice No.	Notice Date	From/To	Reserve Price (in ₹)
1	02921-FSLR-I-2021-05	14/06/2021	Mumbai Central to Surat	1,008/-
2	05068-RSLR-I-2021-05	14/06/2021	Bandra Terminus to Gorakhpur	27,235/-
3	09033-FWLRRM-2021-05	14/06/2021	Bandra Terminus to Gorakhpur	27,879/-
4	09091-FWLRRM-2021-05	14/06/2021	Bandra Terminus to Gorakhpur	18,350/-
5	02949-RLWLRM-2021-05	14/06/2021	Bandra Terminus to Delhi Sarai Rohilla	7,082/-
6	04671-RLWLRM-2021-05	14/06/2021	Bandra Terminus to Shree Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	28,017/-
7	02903-FWLRRM-2021-05	14/06/2021	Mumbai Central to Amritsar	26,554/-
8	02922-FSLR-I-2021-05	14/06/2021	Surat to Mumbai Central	6,048/-

Date & Time of Closing of Tender Online on: 09/07/2021 At 15:00 hrs. (through online website www.reps.gov.in only)

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AFTER SUVENDU'S COMPLAINTS OF COMMUNAL VIOLENCE

Guv writes strong letter to Didi, heads for Delhi

SAUGAR SENGUPTA ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

Roy's friend Vijayvargiya may lose Bengal job

PNS ■ KOLKATA

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

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

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

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

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

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

Much-awaited Rajasthan Cabinet reshuffle delayed

PNS ■ NEW DELHI/JAIPUR

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

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

Gehlot's aide stated the

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

him.

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

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

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

Twitter appoints interim Chief Compliance Officer for India

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

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

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

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

Tharoor-led Parl panel summons Twitter officials on June 18

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

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

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

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

KUMAR CHELLAPPAN ■ KOCHI

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

CEC Sushil Chandra stresses on error-free electoral roll

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Italian marines: India closes criminal cases in 2012 shooting

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

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

Kerala to unlock in stages

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

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

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

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

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

Maha logs 9,350 new cases

TN RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Curbs to ease further in UP from June 21

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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



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PAPER WITH PASSION

Family feuds

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

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

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

PICTALK



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

PTI

Good together

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

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

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



Resistance to coup bleeds Myanmar

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

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

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



ASHOK K MEHTA

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

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

among others, have supported the Asean peace initiative.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

TAKE CARE OF STREET VENDORS

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

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

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

Katuru Durga Prasad Rao | Hyderabad

G7 ALSO WORRIED ABOUT CHINA

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

COVID test fraud during Kumbh



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

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

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

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

Bhagwan Thadani | Mumbai

bloody flashback of Galwan.

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

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

Kirti Wadhawan | Kanpur

PRESERVING ENVIRONMENT IS A MUST

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

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

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

Mohit Rawal | Ujjain

SOUNDBITE

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



Congress interim president — Sonia Gandhi

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

Palestinian Prime Minister — Mohammed Ishtayeh

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

Director — Anil Sharma

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

Argentine footballer — Lionel Messi

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



UP Shia Central Waqf Board member — Waseem Rizvi

Send your feedback to: letterstopioneer@gmail.com

FIRST COLUMN

DESTROYING SOCIAL TABOOS

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



N SOUMIK

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



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

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

Italian marines case proceedings closed

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



J GOPIKRISHNAN

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POINT COUNTERPOINT

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



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



Disturbing dissent in both national parties

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

Both the Congress party and the BJP — the two main national parties— are facing internal problems in the states where they rule. The basic difference between them is the Congress is on the decline while the BJP is growing to replace Congress of the latter's heydays. Once proud of its exemplary discipline and organizational unity the BJP is at present facing internal feuds. It is not that other political parties have not seen their leaders working at cross purposes. But it makes news when this happens in BJP. Why is it happening when the party is claimed to be passing through a golden period in its history? Although Narendra Modi has emerged as the strongest Prime Minister since the days of Indira Gandhi, the



KALYANI SHANKAR

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

second wave of the Coronavirus outbreak has dented his image though he continues to be popular. The vaccine policy, bed shortage, and oxygen shortage have added to the confusion. The Modi magic has not worked in the recent Assembly elections. The first problem is that the BJP has admitted many defectors in poll-bound states. There is heartburn among BJP workers that while they have been sloggng for years those who entered the party yesterday are getting the rewards. This is what has happened in UP, Karnataka, Assam and Uttarakhand. In UP the stakes are very high. In 2017, the BJP won a massive majority. The dissidents have many issues. A.K. Sharma, a retired Gujarat cadre officer

who worked in the Prime Minister's Office has been made an MLC early this year. He is expected to be made a minister soon. The old-timers see him as a threat as he has the ears of the Prime Minister. Some dissidents are demanding a change of chief minister. There is also some strain in the relationship between Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Modi. As for West Bengal, the defectors from the Trinamool Congress are in the process of returning to the TMC starting with the BJP's big catch Mukul Roy. In the past, he had been a blue-eyed boy of chief minister Mamata Banerjee. There are rumblings in the local BJP unit about the poll strategy. Governance in Karnataka is suffering due to internal feuds.



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

to heed the new state leadership. All these go to show that all is not well with the BJP at the local level. However, these are not beyond control. The Congress is at present driven with simmering discontent, mutual bickering, and intraparty disputes. When the leaders are weak, naturally, the state units are emboldened to raise their voice. Only last August some 23 leaders including Ghulam Nabi Azad, Anand Sharma and B. S. Hooda had sent a letter to Congress president Sonia Gandhi seeking urgent reorganization of the party. In Congress-ruled states of Punjab and Rajasthan rebels are demanding the removal of the chief ministers. Cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Sidhu

has launched a scathing attack against Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh. The high command has decided to accommodate both factions in party and government. Rajasthan faced a rebellion last year when Sachin Pilot raised the banner of revolt against Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot but he was pacified by the high command. Pilot is accusing the central leadership of not keeping its promises. One by one "Team Rahul" is getting dismantled. Two of Rahul's trusted lieutenants Jyotiraditya Scindia and now Jitin Prasad have joined the BJP. Sachin Pilot is debating whether to leave Congress. So is Milind Deora. It is nobody's case that there has never been indiscipline and

factionalism in both parties. It is only a question of how soon these rebels are contained. While the BJP, as the ruling party at the centre, can crack the whip, the Congress, being in the opposition does not have that luxury. Today the Congress party's chances of acquiring power in New Delhi in the immediate future appear bleak, and therefore different factions can make credible threats to exit the organization. How it deals with the dissidents is to be seen. New parties are born when people get disenchanted with the existing parties. But internal problems arise because the party men feel there is no future for them in that party. It is for the party leaders to manage the emerging competition among the factions.

Biden admin pushes plan to combat domestic terror

Washington: The Biden administration says it will enhance its analysis of threats from domestic terrorists, including the sharing of intelligence within law enforcement agencies, and will work with tech companies to eliminate terrorist content online as part of a nationwide strategy to combat domestic terrorism.

The National Security Council on Tuesday released the strategy plan, which comes more than six months after a mob of insurgents loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the US Capitol as Congress was voting to certify Joe Biden's presidential win.

A report from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence found that domestic violent extremists posed an increased threat in 2021, with white supremacist groups and anti-government militias posing the highest risk, officials

said. The new strategy includes enhancing the government's analysis of domestic terrorism and improving the information that is shared between local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. Administration officials said the Justice Department had also implemented a new system to "methodically track" domestic terrorism cases nationwide within the FBI.

The Justice Department was also evaluating whether the administration should recommend Congress pass a specific domestic terrorism law, which does not currently exist. In the absence of domestic terrorism laws, the Justice Department relies on other statutes to prosecute ideologically motivated violence by people with no international ties.

But that has made it harder to track how often extremists driven by religious, racial or

anti-government bias commit violence in the US and complicates efforts to develop a universally accepted domestic terrorism definition. Opponents of domestic terrorism laws say prosecutors already have enough tools.

The Government's new plan also includes an effort to identify government employees who may pose a domestic terrorism threat, with a number of federal agencies working on new policies and programs to root out potential domestic extremists in law enforcement and in the military.

An administration official said the Office of Personnel Management was considering updating forms to assist in improving screening and vetting of government employees to make sure people who could pose a threat are identified before being put in sensitive roles. **PTI**

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

Bangkok: The trial of Myanmar's deposed leader Aung San Suu Kyi entered its second day on Tuesday, with the prosecution presenting arguments that she incited public disorder and flouted civic norms, part of a package of charges the ruling junta is seen as using to discredit her and consolidate its control.

Suu Kyi and other members of her Government and party were arrested by the military after the February 1 coup, with criminal charges brought against some of the top figures on litany of charges that both their supporters and independent observers say are bogus.

The coup reversed years democratic reforms in Myanmar after decades of military rule and sparked widespread protests and international condemnation.

Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy party had been due to start a second five-year term of office after winning a landslide victory in a general election last November.

Suu Kyi has not been seen in public since her arrest and her lawyers say they don't know exactly where she is currently being held. She has also had only limited time to consult with her legal team.

Tuesday's session was to cover a sedition charge brought against Suu Kyi, along with a second count of violating Covid norms. The sedition charge, which is sometimes described as incitement, calls for up to two years' imprisonment for anyone found guilty of causing fear or alarm that could cause an offense against the state or public tranquility. **AP**

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

Beijing: China on Tuesday played down the reports of a leak at one of its nuclear power plants, asserting that there is no abnormal environmental radioactive level in the surrounding areas and the public "safety is guaranteed".

China's response came after CNN reported on Monday that the US government was assessing a report of a leak at a Chinese nuclear power plant, after a French company that partly owns and helps to operate it warned of an "imminent radiological threat".

The warning included an accusation that the Chinese safety authority was raising the acceptable limits for radiation detection outside the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant in Guangdong province in order to avoid having to shut it down.

"I want stress that based on the information we got from competent authorities to date, the Taishan Nuclear Power Plant meets the requirements of the technical specifications and there is no abnormal environmental radioactive level in areas surrounding the power plant, so safety is guaranteed", Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a media briefing here.

He parried questions on whether the Chinese authorities have raised the acceptable limits of radiation around the plant.

Zhao said China attaches high importance to nuclear safety. **PTI**

Hong Kong: Hong Kong's Government is closely watching a nearby Chinese nuclear power plant following a news report that it might be leaking.

The plant's operators have released few details, but nuclear experts say based on their brief public statement, the facility might be suffering a leak of gas from fuel rods inside a reactor. Government data showed radiation levels in Hong Kong were normal on Monday night, Chief Executive Carrie Lam said. Data on Tuesday from the Hong Kong Observatory showed radiation still normal. **AP**

Hong Kong watching Chinese nuclear plant after leak reported

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Iran presidential candidate urges better ties with West

Tehran: A prominent contender in Iran's presidential election appealed Tuesday for better economic and political relations with the West, his most extensive attempt yet to attract reformist voters just days ahead of the poll.

Former Iranian Central Bank chief Abdolnasser Hemmati, among the seven candidates allowed on the ballot for Friday's vote, has no official ties to any political faction but is positioning himself as the likely candidate for moderate and reform-minded voters.

"Why should there be a barrier for peaceful co-existence?" asked Hemmati, while emphasising that an "improvement in global and regional peace" hinged on American good will and "trust-building" with the Islamic Republic.

He repeated calls for a return to Tehran's tattered 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, saying that if he were to become president, resurrecting the agreement. **AP**

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

Brussels: The leaders of Serbia and Kosovo on Tuesday resumed EU-brokered negotiations aimed at resolving a long-lasting dispute that remains a source of tensions in the volatile Balkans.

But the meeting in Brussels between Serbia's President Aleksandar Vucic and Kosovo's new Prime Minister Albin Kurti appeared to produce little progress in the negotiations that first started in 2011 and have been stalled since last year.

"It was not an easy meeting, but it was important that it happened," said the EU's special envoy for the talks, Miroslav Lajcak. **AP**

"What is important for the European Union is that both leaders confirmed that there is no other way forward but to normalize relations between Kosovo and Serbia."

Both countries have been told that they cannot hope to move forward in their efforts to join the EU before resolving the decades-old rift that exploded in a conflict in 1998-99, leaving more than 10,000 people dead and triggering a NATO intervention.

Kosovo, formerly a province of Serbia, declared independence in 2008 but Belgrade has refused to accept that. **AP**

Attacks target polio teams in east Afghan, 5 killed

Kabul: Gunmen on Tuesday targeted an anti-polio drive in eastern Afghanistan, killing at least five members of two vaccination teams in separate attacks, officials said.

No militant group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks that took place in the city of Jalalabad, as well as in the nearby districts of Khoyani and Surkhrud, according to Attaullah Khogyani, spokesman for the governor in Nangarhar province. Jalalabad is the provincial capital.

Along with the five killed, at least four members of the polio vaccination teams were wounded, said Dr. Jan Mohammad, who coordinates the anti-polio drive for the country's east. Khogyani called the attacks cowardly, adding that two of the wounded were in critical condition.

Afghanistan and neighbouring Pakistan are the only two remaining countries in the world where polio is endemic, after Nigeria was last year declared free of the virus.

In March, the Islamic State group said it shot and killed three women who were part of a polio vaccination team, also in Jalalabad, the capital of Afghanistan's Nangarhar province.

The IS affiliate is headquartered in eastern Afghanistan and while the Sunni militant group's numbers are believed to have gone down after recent government offensives and clashes with the rival Taliban, IS militants have lately stepped up attacks on minority Shiite Muslims. **AP**

Israel braces for unrest from right-wing Jerusalem march

Jerusalem: Hundreds of Israeli ultranationalists gathered Tuesday near Jerusalem's Old City ahead of a contentious march that threatened to spark renewed violence just weeks after a war with Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip.

The planned march in east Jerusalem has posed a test for the fragile new government as well as the tenuous truce that ended last month's 11-day war between Israel and Hamas.

Palestinians consider the march, which usually winds through the Old City's Damascus Gate and into the heart of the Muslim Quarter, to be a provocation. Hamas has called on Palestinians to "resist" the parade, a version of which was held at the height of last month's unrest in the city and helped ignite the 11-day Gaza war.

Hundreds of Jewish nationalists gathered several hundred meters (yards) from Damascus Gate before the early evening march. Most appeared to be young, religious men, and many held blue-and-white Israeli flags. In the Gaza Strip, Hamas-linked Palestinians launched incendiary balloons into southern Israel, setting a series of fires. **AP**

EAM Jaishankar discusses bilateral cooperation with his Qatari counterpart

Doha: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday discussed bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional issues with his Qatari counterpart Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani during his second visit to the key Gulf nation in a week.

Jaishankar met Mohammed, who is also Qatar's Deputy PM, in Doha, a day after he discussed the global and regional issues, including the security situation in the Indo-Pacific region, with Kenya's top leadership.

"Good to meet DPM & FM @MBA_AIThani of Qatar in Doha today. Appreciated Qatar's solidarity during the Covid second wave. Discussed our bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on regional issues," he said in a tweet.

Jaishankar arrived in

Kenya on Saturday on a three-day visit to strengthen India's relations with the major East African country. He called on Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta and handed over a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to him.

Before visiting Kenya, Jaishankar arrived on his first bilateral visit to Kuwait on Thursday. He held "productive discussions" with his Kuwaiti counterpart Sheikh Ahmed Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah on Thursday during which the two sides discussed a range of issues including health, food, education, energy, digital, and business cooperation. **PTI**

US anti-virus software creator fights extradition from Spain

Madrid: Detained anti-virus software entrepreneur John McAfee testified in a Spanish court on Tuesday as part of his fight against extradition to the United States, where he is wanted on tax-related criminal charges that carry a prison sentence of up to 30 years.

McAfee, 75, appeared from prison via videolink at a hearing in Spain's National Court. He argued that the charges against him are politically motivated and said he would spend the rest of his life in prison if he was returned to the United States, according to a report by Europa Press. **AP**

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

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

Israel is no longer requiring masks indoors

Jerusalem: Lifting one of its last coronavirus restrictions following a highly successful vaccination campaign.

The restriction was lifted on Tuesday, though people will still be required to wear masks on airplanes and on their way to quarantine. Unvaccinated individuals must wear masks in nursing homes and other long-term health facilities.

Israel has vaccinated around 85% of its adult population, allowing schools and businesses to fully reopen. There are only a few dozen active patients in the country of more than 9 million. **AP**

In Oman, fungal infection found in some Covid patients

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

SPECIAL TRAINS

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

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

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

Accommodation: AC 3 Tier & Sleeper.

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

Days of Run: 08103 Ex Tatanagar Jn. from 21.06.2021 to 28.06.2021 (on every Monday & Wednesday) and 08104 Ex Amritsar from 23.06.2021 to 30.06.2021 (on every Wednesday & Friday)

Accommodation: AC 3 Tier Sleeper & Reserved Second Seating.

Stoppages: Purulia Jn, Bokaro Steel City, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Jn, Gomoh, Koderma, Gaya Jn., Rafiganj, Anugraha Narayan Road, Dehri On Sone, Sasaram, Bhabua Road, Pundit Deendayal Upadhyaya Jn., Varanasi Jn., Shahganj, Faizabad Jn., Lucknow, Bareilly, Moradabad, Laksar Jn., Roorkee, Saharanpur, Yamunanagar Jagadhri, Ambala Cant Jn., Ludhiana Jn., Jalandhar City and Beas stations

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

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

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

Visit RailMadad website:- www.railmadad.indianrailways.gov.in

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Serving Customers with a Smile

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS E-TENDER NOTICE

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

Principal Chief Materials Manager, CLW/Chittaranjan

PR2-080

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EXTENSION OF PERIODICITY OF SPECIAL TRAIN

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

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

This Special Train will be having Fully Reserved Service.

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

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

RailMadad Helpline No. 139

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

I, Jaswinder Singh and Jagdeep Singh, r/o A-63 Preet Vihar, Delhi-110092 inform that a notice in 2019 had been sent for release of pending payment of rent and possession of our property to Mr. Vikrant Bhatnagar s/o Sh. Krishan Kumar Bhatnagar r/o Bhatnagar Handloom Pvt. Ltd. (Opp. Jai Cinema Kabza Road), Murad, Nagar, Ghazabad, Uttar Pradesh, Mob No. 9811521445, 7965999919 with whom a rent agreement was executed to run Aroma Restaurant located at 18, Ashish Corporate Tower, Kakardoma Community Centre, on rent for a period of two years, by the owners Jaswinder Singh and Jagdeep Singh from 01.04.2019 to 31.03.2021 which was duly registered on 06.03.2019 in Registrar's Office at Nand Nagri. Mr. Vikrant Bhatnagar is absconding and he has not paid the rent from August, 2019 to 31.03.2021 i.e. For twenty months for which a termination notice he already issued in case Mr. Vikrant Bhatnagar fails to make the rent payment and give possession of the rented property then legal action will be taken against him. Further, public is advised through this public notice that anybody dealing with Mr. Vikrant Bhatnagar will be doing so at his/her own risks, cost and consequences and the owners will not be held responsible for any Act and Deed done by Mr. Vikrant Bhatnagar.

HARSH CHACHRA COUNSEL

Off: 223358, First Floor, Tikak Nagar, Delhi #9910454141, adv.harshchachra@gmail.com

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004 E-TENDER

Tender Notice No. PCE/BLW(ET)/Publish/2021-22/03 Date: 12.06.2021 By Chief Engineer, Banaras Locomotive works, Varanasi on behalf of the president of India invites "Open" Tender through E-Tendering from the contractors. S.N. 1, Tender No. BLW-WAT-ET-01R73-19-20, Name of work: Operation & maintenance of STP, IETP & SUMP WELL for two years under SSE/STP, Tender cost (Rs): 6695810.91, Cost of tender form (Rs) : 5900.00, Time of completion : 24 month, Closing Date time of tender: 06.07.2021 at 15:00 pm, Date of opening of tender: 06.07.2021 at 15:30 pm, Special Notice - Details terms and conditions can be seen on website: <http://www.ireps.gov.in> and tender can fill up on the same website.

PR/BLW/C-3 Senior Engineer

www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in

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

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

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

The Terms of Reference (TORs) for the posts are available at <https://nift.ac.in/careers>

Last date to Apply :- 09-07-2021

Candidates who had already applied for the posts as mentioned in Sl. No 1 & 4 against the advertisement published in March 2021 need not apply again.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

VINOD PANT Advocate

Ch: 500-501, Western Wing, Ts Hazari, New Delhi-54

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for notice of the general public that a political party is proposed to be registered by the name of **Rashtriya Suraksha Party**. The office of the party located at III-H-2, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001. This Party has submitted application to the Election Commission of India, New Delhi for its registration as Political Party under Section 29A of the Representation of People Act, 1951- Names/address of the office bearers of the Party are as follows: President/Chairman : Ramanuj Singh General Secretary/Secretary : Neelmani Shrivastav Treasurer : Ankur Chaudhary

If any one has any objection to the registration of Rashtriya Suraksha Party they may send their Objection with reasons thereof, to the Secretary (Political Party) Election Commission of India, Nirvachan Sadan, Ashoka Road, New Delhi-110001 within 30 days of the publication of this notice.

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

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

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

NIT along with all the terms and conditions is available on website <https://govprocurement.delhi.gov.in>

ISSUED BY P.R.O. (WATER) Advt. No. J.S.V. 110 (2021-22)

Sd/ EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (SDW) XII

Sensex, Nifty settle at life-time highs

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

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

On the Sensex chart, Asian

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

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

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

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

"Indian bourses

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



billion.

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Shipping Ministry, Civil Aviation Ministry signs MoU

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

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

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

Rupee falls for 6th straight session

PTI ■ MUMBAI

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

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

Gold jumps ₹303, silver gains ₹134

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

IANAS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

IANAS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

Anti-Covid ACs: Panasonic receives encouraging demand

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

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

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

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

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

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

WESTERN RAILWAY

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

Notice No.: S/III/ADVT/June-2021 dt. 10/06/2021

INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PURCHASING DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES IN RUNNING CONDITIONS

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

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UJVN LTD.

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

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

Office of the Dy. General Manager (E&M Design-I), Ganga Bhawan, Yamuna Colony, Dehradun, invites online bids from interested parties. Brief summary of tender is given below:

Tender No.: 01/DGM(E&M DESIGN-I)/2021-22/ISMS

Name of the Work/Supply/Services: CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR "IMPLEMENTATION OF ISO 27001:2013 (ISMS) AT DEHRADUN OFFICES OF UJVN LTD., TO MAKE THEM ISO 27001:2013 (ISMS) CERTIFIED"

Estimated cost: Rs 8.14 Lac + Taxes (EXTRA)

Date of availability of bid document on website: 17.06.2021

Last date for submission of bids on website: 20.07.2021 (upto 17:00 hrs.)

For fuller & further details, kindly visit e-procurement portal <http://uktenders.gov.in> Dy.G.M. (E&M Design-I)

"Avoid wasteful use of Electricity"

NORTHERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice

Invitation of Tender through E-Tendering (E-Procurement Systems)

NIT No. 221-S/4/2/WR/R/JHI-JHL(2020)/ML-4

Name of Work and its location: Tender for "Washing of Linen i.e. Bed sheets, Quilt cover, Pillow covers and Woolen blankets at Running Room Jind & Jakhai under respective Sr. Crew Controller for the period of three years from date of execution."

Approx. Cost of work: ₹17,60,375/- (Seventeen lakh Sixty thousand Three hundred seven five only) + GST as applicable

Earnest Money: ₹35,200/-

Completion period of work: Three years i.e. 36 months from the date of execution of work

Cost of Tender Document: ₹2360/- (including GST@ 18%)

Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender: Upto 11:00 hrs. on 13.07.2021 Opening of tender at 11:00 hrs. on 13.07.2021

Website particulars notice board location: Above tender is available on complete details of tender can be seen IREPS site i.e. www.ireps.gov.in

No. 221-S/4/2/WR/R/JHI-JHL(2020)/ML-4 Dated: 15.06.2021 1311/21

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Anil Khaitan
Chairman Cum Managing Director
DIN 00759951

HYBRID IS THE WAY FORWARD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Online crossword challenge

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PhD programme

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

Mahindra University, Hyderabad, announces the launch of its Fall intake for admission to its PhD Programme in Engineering, Applied Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences for the 2021 academic session. The last date for submission of applications for admission is June 30, 2021, for the September-October, 2021 session. The details of the full time PhD programme, qualifications, experience, etc., are available on the website: <https://www.mahindraeducation.edu.in/programs/phd>.

Full-time PhD scholars will get an assistantship of ₹25,000 per month plus free boarding and lodging in the MU campus. They will have to mandatorily perform Teaching Assistantship of eight hours a week.

Unlock new opportunities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Up your English speaking game

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is Executive Director, TOEFL Program, ETS

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

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

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



Ragul Ramachandran Uthama Singh

Brunel University, London. His app Livathon offers an interest/hobby-based networking of users in the location of their choice. It also offers a digital

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

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

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

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

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

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



EMPOWER YOUR FUTURE

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

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

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

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

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

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

the saying — Data is the new oil!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The writer is Senior Associate, Marketing & Content, LawSikho

'Believe you can be successful'

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

towards your goal.

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

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

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

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

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

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

MINDIT

empathy.

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

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

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

problem-solving skills.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

The Clark College, US invites applications for its

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

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

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

The applicants must be commencing their academic year in 2021.

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

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

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

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

- TOEFL – 85
- IELTS – 6.5

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

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

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

DATA ANALYTICS (SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT) AT RUBY CAPITAL
Location: Work From Home
Stipend: ₹10,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/e062b8
Application deadline: June 24, 2021

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

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

GRAPHIC DESIGN AT BRANDS OVER MOON
Location: Delhi
Stipend: ₹8,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/125ce0
Deadline: June 24, 2021

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

CONTENT WRITING (PUNJABI) AT POLITICAL SAMPARK
Location: Chandigarh, Mohali
Stipend: ₹6,000 per month
Link: internshala.com/i/379cbcd
Deadline: June 23, 2021

FRESHER JOBS CONTENT & E-COMMERCE MGT TRAINEE AT BLOOPRINT ECOM CONSULTING
Location: Remote
Stipend: ₹3 lakh per annum
Link: internshala.com/i/6a4bdf
Deadline: July 9, 2021
Skill(s): MS-Excel, Research and Analytics

IN BRIEF

APP THAT HELPS MASTER CONCEPTS

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

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

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

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

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

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



BENEFITS OF IT CERTIFICATION

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

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

- In 2020 IT certification grew

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

VIT-AP VSL teams up with Alpha Partners



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

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

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

Akshat Pande, Founder and Managing Partner, Alpha Partners after

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

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

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

No spot for Shardul, Mayank & Sundar in WTC

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

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

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

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

England series hero Axar Patel also missed out.

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

Rahul seemed in good touch during the game but a look at the squad will indicate that all those who were first choice during the start of the Australia tour are back in the mix. The Indian team management's policy since Kohli took over has been to honour the first choice players in the squad

Ball will swing even without saliva: Ishant



PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

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

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

"And if the ball is maintained well in these

conditions, then it becomes easier for the bowlers to take wickets in these conditions," he added but did not get into specifics.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and even if the reserves do well, it is understood that they get a chance only when a senior player gets injured.

Hence Umesh got preferred over Shardul, who had a half-century and seven wickets in the series winning Brisbane Test against Australia. Ravichandran Ashwin is the lone off-spinner and Ravindra Jadeja's return means that there was no place for Axar Patel.

Rahul and Mayank Agarwal are also currently not in the mix and would be considered only once the team management has given enough chances to both Rohit Sharma and Shubman Gill. In case of Wriddhiman Saha, the ICC rule of being able to replace a wicketkeeper with a substitute keeper was reason for a look-in.

INDIA SQUAD:

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



'Williamson available to lead NZ in WTC'

PTI ■ SOUTHAMPTON

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



de Grandhomme.

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

"We've gone with Ajaz as our specialist spinner after an impressive outing at Edgbaston and we believe he could be a factor at the Ageas Bowl," Stead said.

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

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

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

New Zealand Squad:

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

Seven year wait ends

Indian women return to Test cricket with clash against England

PTI ■ BRISTOL

A favourable record in England and "positive mindset" despite inadequate preparation time will spur the Indian women's cricket team when it takes on the seasoned hosts in its first Test engagement in nearly seven years here from Wednesday.

After multiple quarantines in India and UK, the Mithali Raj-led squad got little over a week to prepare for its first red ball game since November 2014.

Mithali was among the seven current players, who were a part of that victorious eleven against South Africa in Mysuru. While experienced players like the skipper, her deputy Harmanpreet Kaur, Smriti Mandhana and Jhulan Goswami have not played red ball cricket at all in recent times, it will be an even tougher test for the younger lot who don't get to play first-class matches in domestic cricket.

There is a good chance that



17-year-old batting sensation Shafali Verma opens in the game alongside Mandhana.

England vs India
Live from 3:30 pm IST
STAR SPORTS 2 NETWORK

She goes into the game with no baggage and could well make a big impact at the top of the order.

The experienced trio of Mithali, Harmanpreet and Punam Raut will be expected to do the job in what will be challenging conditions for them also.

There could be some respite in store for the batters with England choosing Kookaburra over Dukes ball, which does more, for the game as the home team builds up to the Ashes Test against Australia later in the year.

It also remains to be seen if veteran pacers Jhulan Goswami and Shikha Pandey would be able to bowl long spells, having not done so for a long time.

The spinners, who had a forgettable time at home in the limited overs series against SA, would be itching to make amends.

'Took advice of other cricketers to prepare for Test against England'

PTI ■ BRISTOL

India women's team captain Mithali Raj on Tuesday said she took advice of other cricketers to better prepare for the longest format ahead of the one-off Test against England starting here on Wednesday.

"I have played lesser Tests than ODI and T20, I would have liked more Test matches. I wouldn't really get down to thinking whether my game is evolved in this format, but the preparation has been very similar," Raj said at the match eve virtual press conference.

"And probably talking to many other cricketers, trying to get how they prepare for the longer format has helped

The visitors can surely take heart from their past record in England where they have not lost in eight games, having won two out of them.

England's star all-rounder and newly-appointed vice captain Nat Sciver is among the six squad members who played in

me to prepare for this Test match," said Mithali, without taking names of the cricketers, whom she had spoken to.

Raj said she would not want rookie players to be burdened with expectations and would advise them to enjoy the game.

"Well, we did brief them (players) about how the long format is played and clearly for someone who is making a debut, you don't want to burden them with expectations and responsibility.

"So, it is just that I would brief together as a team, support them on the field and they should just enjoy playing this format," the skipper added.

their last Test match against India back in August 2014.

The tourists had won that game in Wormsley by six wickets.

England remain the favourites to win the upcoming contest but Sciver expects India to play fearlessly.

India hold vital point

PTI ■ DOHA

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

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

The two sides had also played out a 1-1 draw in the first leg match in Dushanbe in 2019. It was an open and fast-paced game with the Afghans playing a more physical game in a match strewn with fouls and referee Ali Reza failing to discipline the players.

Both sides were almost even in ball possession and India had 10 shots on target as against seven from Afghanistan. But the Afghans committed 16 fouls as against nine by the Indians. Three Afghan players were shown yellow cards as against one of India.

With seven points from



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

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

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

lected by the Afghan goalie.

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

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

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

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

Kuruniyan sent a high cross from the left which Suresh Wangjam tried to reach for. Afghan goalie Azizi rose for what should have been an easy collection but the ball dropped down his hands and slipped in between his legs into the empty goal.

Sweden hold Spain to a goalless draw



AP ■ SEVILLE

The chances came and went but neither Spain nor Sweden managed to put any of them in the net.

Spain dominated possession and kept the pressure on the opposing area for most of the match but the Swedes held on for a 0-0 draw Monday at the European Championship.

Sweden managed only a few chances at La Cartuja Stadium, but they were some of the most dangerous ones.

Alexander Isak, who plays for Spanish club Real Sociedad, had a shot from inside the area hit the post after deflecting off Spain defender Marcos Llorente in front of the goal line.

Early in the second half,

Marcus Berg was inside the area with the ball coming his way, but he mishit his shot.

Alvaro Morata had Spain's best chance just a few minutes before Isak but his shot missed wide with goalkeeper Robin Olsen the only opponent to beat.

"Everyone can make mistakes, we all make them," Spain midfielder Pedri González said about Morata, who was booed by parts of the Spanish fans. "He works hard for the team and that always shows on the field."

Morata had already missed some chances and been jeered in Spain's final warm-up match against Portugal, also a 0-0 draw. Spain pressed until the end on Monday but kept misfiring. Olsen made a 90th-minute save off a header by substitute Gerard

Moreno, and he had already stopped another close-range header by Dani Olmo in the first half.

"The way we earned that point today, the entire team, the way the guys ran in the heat, it wasn't just me who earned this point," Olsen said.

"It was an incredible team effort. We didn't play our best game. It's not the most well-deserved point we've ever taken. But we battled. We showed that we wanted it." Spain ended with 75% of possession and had 17 total attempts, with five on target. Sweden missed the target on its four attempts.

"We played against a rival that decided to defend and tried to create some danger with long balls, and it actually had the chance to win the match," Spain coach Luis Enrique said.

"It's a disappointing draw for us."

Spain had failed to score in only one of its last 14 group matches at European Championships.

Sweden hadn't drawn any of its last 17 international matches, since a tie against Spain in qualifying for Euro 2020.

to play this way."

In the other group match, Slovakia defeated Poland 2-1 in St. Petersburg.

Spain's matches at Euro 2020 are being played in Seville instead of Bilbao - the original host city for the continent-wide tournament - because the high contagion rate of the virus in the northern city wouldn't allow for many fans to attend games.

Sweden, which hasn't advanced past the group stage at the European Championship since 2004, next faces Slovakia on Friday in St. Petersburg. The Swedes will also play in Russia

against Poland.

Both teams were without players because of the coronavirus. Spain lost captain Sergio Busquets and Sweden was without Mattias Svanberg and Dejan Kulusevski. They were all still in isolation after testing positive for COVID-19 last week.

The entire Spanish team was vaccinated just days before its opening match.

Luis Enrique started with Rodri Hernández in Busquets' position, with youngster Pedri and Koke Resurrección alongside him in the midfield. The 18-year-old Pedri became Spain's youngest ever player at the tournament.



Christian Eriksen sent his first public message from the hospital on Tuesday, thanking supporters for their "sweet and amazing" well-wishes after his collapse at the European Championship.

Messi's Argentina draws with Chile



AP ■ RIO DE JANEIRO

Lionel Messi scored a stunning free kick, repeatedly dribbled through the Chilean defense and created opportunities regularly for his Argentina teammates.

Despite Messi's intense performance, Argentina was held 1-1 by Chile in its Copa America opener. The game at the Nilton Santos stadium in Rio de Janeiro was also marked by a tribute to Argentine football great Diego Maradona, who died in November at age 60. Messi, who turns 34 this month,



might have one of his final chances of winning a title with Argentina at the Copa America.

Argentina appeared to be ready to start giving Messi what he craves. Coach Lionel Scaloni's lineup wasted three clear opportunities between the 16th and 18th minutes, one from Lautaro Martínez and two for Nicolás González.

And then Messi opened the scoring in the 33rd after a free kick that Chilean goalkeeper Claudio Bravo couldn't stop despite getting a touch on the ball to his left. Argentina continued to pressure Chile, which was missing injured striker Alexis Sanchez.

But Chile transformed into a more attacking team in the second half and earned a penalty after video review. Arturo Vidal's shot from the spot was stopped, but Eduardo Vargas nodded into the empty goal to level the scoring in the 57th.

Messi continued to create opportunities until the end of the match, but his teammates showed the same difficulty to deliver goals as they did in the 2-2 draw at Colombia in a World Cup qualifier in Barranquilla last week.

The superstar also complained about the apparently irregular pitch at the stadium.

Chile's Vidal said getting a draw despite Messi's performance was a good result for his team, which is in transition with new coach Martin Lasarte.